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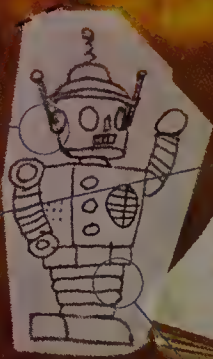
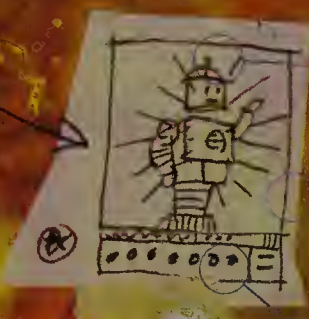
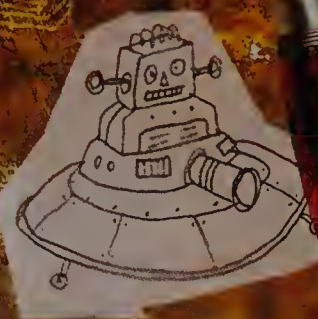


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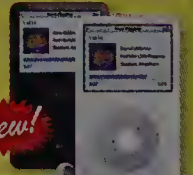
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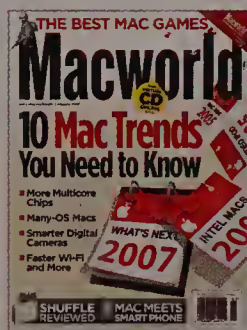
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73 GAME HALL OF FAME



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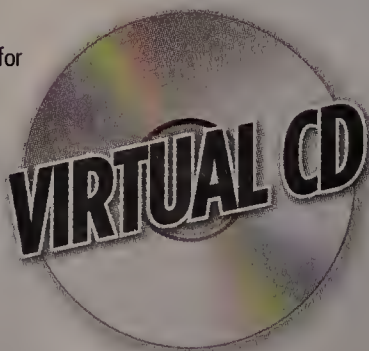
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> Check out Breen's Bungalow for tips on upgrading to a new Mac, tips for running non-native applications, and must-have add-ons.

> Peter Cohen has this year's inductees into *Macworld's* Game Hall of Fame.

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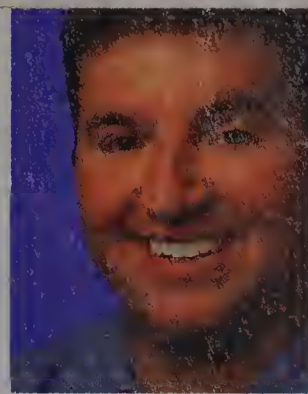
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Fearless Nonpredictions

For some reason, as the world marks the end of one year and the beginning of another, otherwise intelligent people start thinking they can predict the future. While everyone else is munching on turkey and overdosing on eggnog, pundits read tea leaves and make pronouncements of what's to come. It's silly, really. So why do we do it?

Things to Come

As you may have noticed from our cover, in this month's issue we attempt to identify ten technology trends that will have the biggest impact on Mac users in 2007 (see page 50). We aren't trying to be fortune tellers. We aren't foolish enough to try and predict what Apple will announce in 2007. Rather, our intent is to talk to the experts in the field about the prevailing winds in the Mac marketplace and how they'll change what we buy over the next 12 to 18 months.

For example, frequent *Macworld* contributor Glenn Fleishman is one of the most respected people around when it comes to covering wireless networking. As he describes in this issue, faster wireless networking is on the horizon, as is a future with Wi-Fi chips embedded in just about every home electronics device you can think of.

The Year of Digital Entertainment?

For years, the joke about faster Wi-Fi has been that nobody really needs it: the speed of a standard home cable or a DSL data connection is slower than even the slowest Wi-Fi, so faster Wi-Fi won't help when it comes to sharing a Net connection. But when you start talking about using Wi-Fi to distribute digital entertainment within the house, the laughter stops. Wi-Fi will need to be much more robust if it's going to stream multiple video files (some in high definition) to multiple TVs.

Apple's preview of its set-top entertainment box, code-named iTV, gives us a good idea of where Apple's going in 2007: the living room. But without faster, more reliable Wi-Fi connections, Apple's going to have a hard time convincing people to ditch their DVD players and rely on wirelessly streaming videos from their Macs to their TVs instead.

Wi-Fi features prominently in another big issue we'll see in 2007: the attempt by Microsoft to beat Apple at the iPod game, with the new Zune music player. Desperate not to be written off as the purveyor of a larger, clunkier iPod knockoff, Microsoft has imbued the Zune with one feature that current iPods can't match: support for Wi-Fi.

Of course, right now the Zune's Wi-Fi support is a sham: it can't connect to anything except other Zunes,

and even then all it can do is transfer a *temporary* copy of a song from one Zune to another. But the mere presence of Wi-Fi in the Zune—and the release of the Zune itself—should spur Apple on. Even if many of the design decisions that went into the Zune are worthy of derision, the fact remains that Microsoft is challenging Apple. Apple should react to the competition by raising its own game, whether that means adding wireless capabilities to future iPods or continuing to innovate in other ways.

Home or Roam?

Another thing I'll be watching for in 2007 is the increasing convergence of cellular phones and digital entertainment. As phones get smarter, they're gaining music- and video-playback features that make them competitors to the iPod (see our analysis of Mac-syncing smart phones on page 64). But at the same time, no cell phone has really matched the simplicity and ease of the iPod. Will Apple trump these iPod-usurping phones with an iPod-based phone of its own?

I'd like to tell you the answers to these questions, but wasn't I just saying something about how trying to predict the future only serves to make you look silly? I don't doubt that Apple has something up its sleeve. I could even draw up some specifications on the back of a napkin—but it would still be just one man's fantasy. Since I'm not in charge of making a video iPod or an iPod phone, my napkin's not really worth much.

What about the Mac? That's one area where I'm more than happy to make a prediction: 2007 is going to be a fantastic year for Macs. Apple's success with the iPod has reinvigorated the Mac world, bringing in many new users who have discovered that Apple makes products with a care and class that are seldom found elsewhere. The release of Windows Vista will create some waves, but I doubt it will inspire much enthusiasm. The release of the next Mac OS X, Leopard, will allow Apple to make hay at Vista's expense, by providing features that will take Microsoft many more years to imitate.

There, I made a prediction. 'Tis the season. □

What do you think will be big in 2007? What do you think of our predictions? Come on over to macworld.com/forums and let me know.

Wireless? In-ear? High definition? Noise-Isolating?



YES
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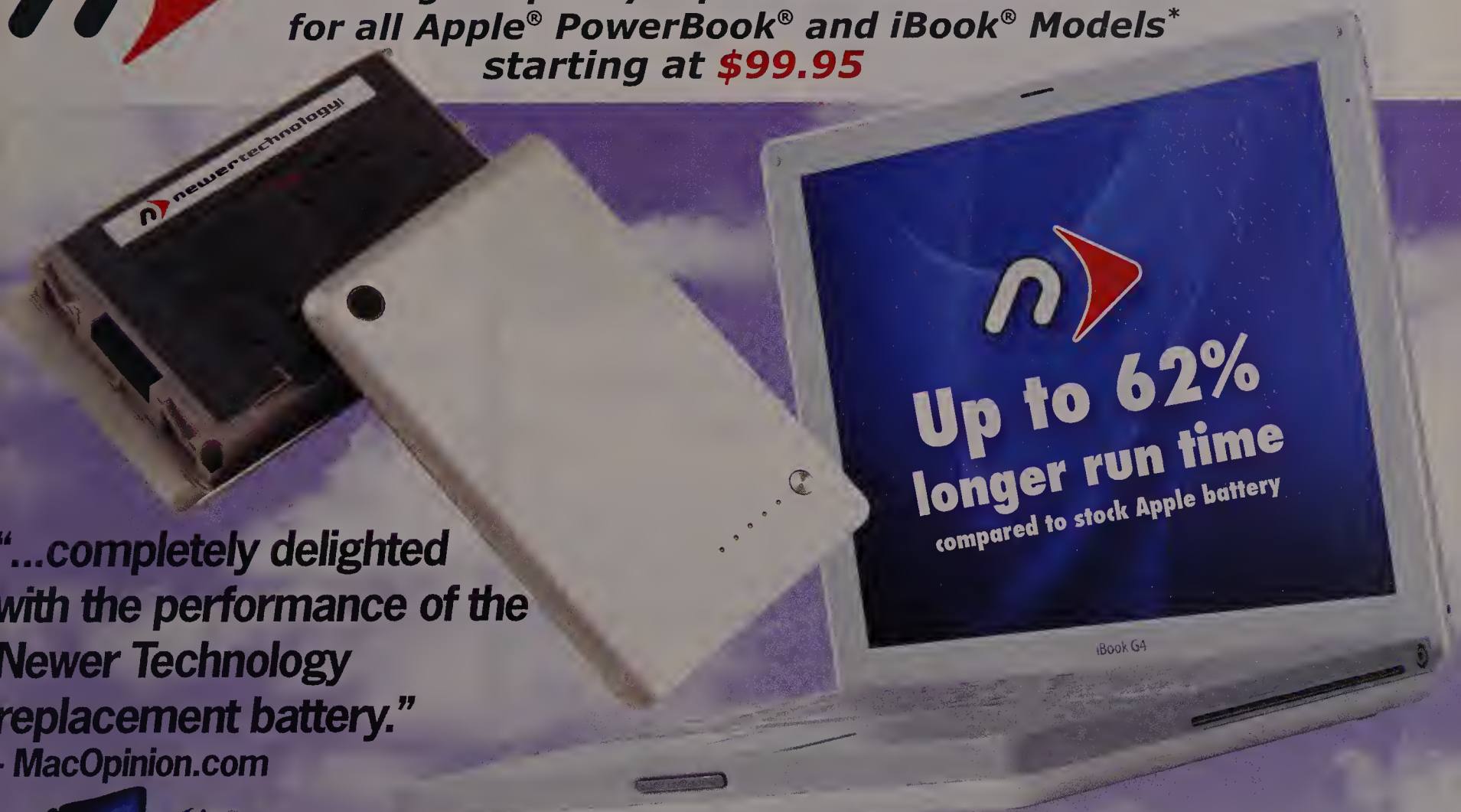
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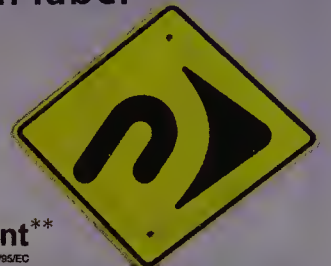


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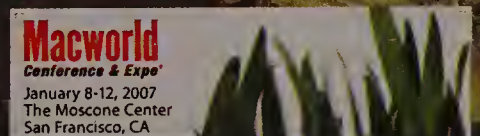


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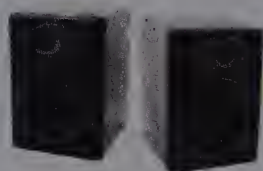


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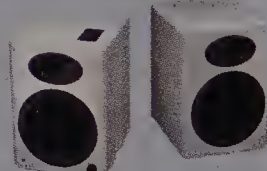


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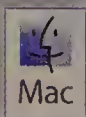
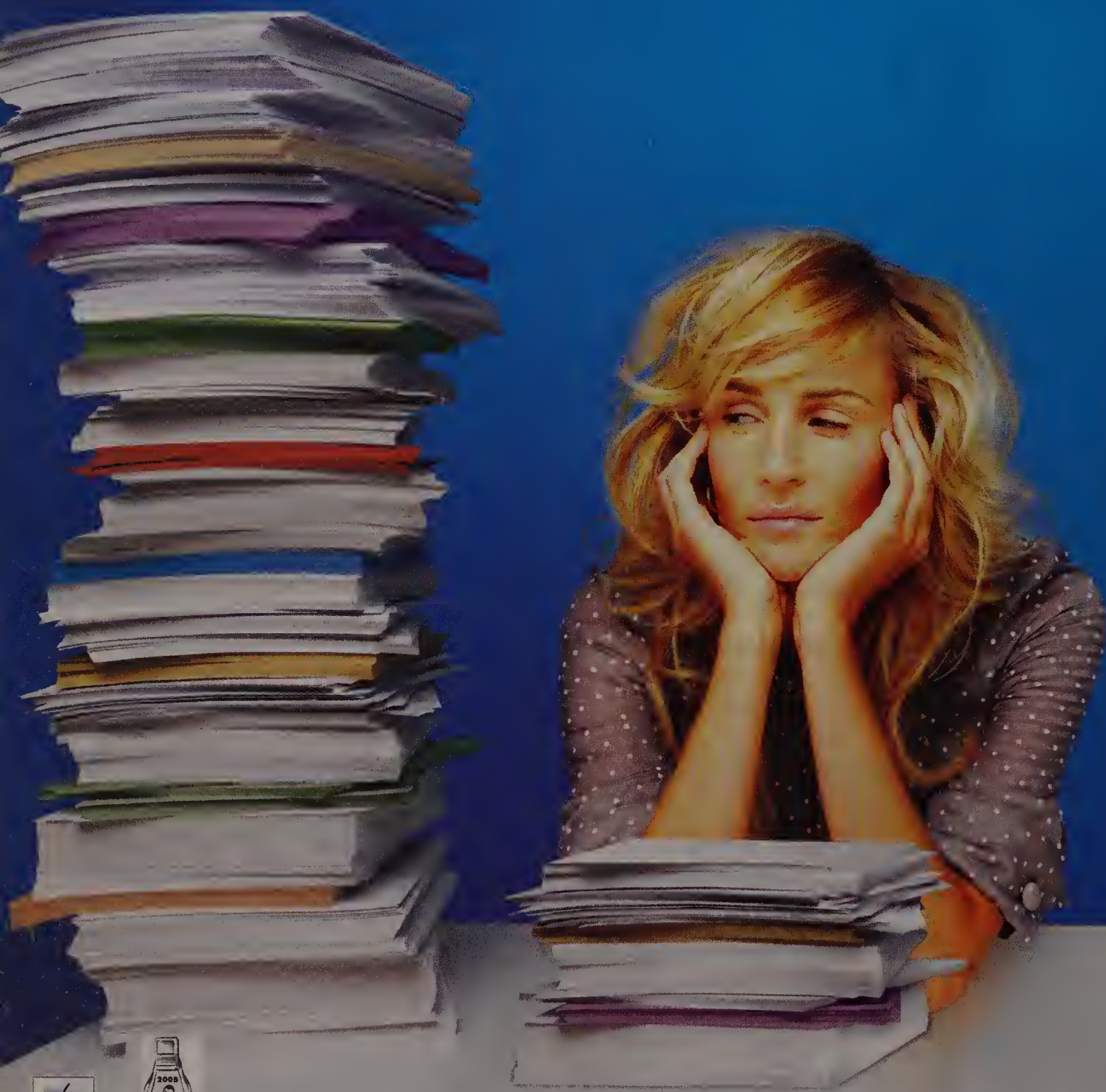
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FEEDBACK

The Next X

In a year that has been chockablock with big announcements from Apple (the MacBook and MacBook Pro, Intel versions of the iMac and the Mac mini, the Mac Pro tower, and a bunch of new iPods—and that's just the hardware), one announcement attracted more attention than any other: Steve Jobs's preview of OS X 10.5, also known as Leopard, at last summer's Worldwide Developers Conference. Even though Apple says that Leopard won't be out until spring 2007, it's already a heated topic among *Macworld* readers. □

Leopard Spotted

CHRISTIAN BELEÑA

Time Machine looks like a great feature in OS X 10.5 ("10 Things You Need to Know about Leopard," October 2006), but I don't know how good it will be for laptop users. You'll need a dedicated internal hard drive, or an external drive, for it to work well. Since I travel constantly with my MacBook Pro, I don't want to carry an extra hard drive.



BILL ZINN

Your item about Time Machine was interesting and makes it sound like some great Apple idea. Too bad you didn't mention that it's just a long overdue copy of a feature Windows users have had for years: System Restore. While Time Machine certainly seems more advanced than the Windows feature, the fact remains that it is just an improved version of a Windows program that Mac users have long been asking for.

DARIO DESANTES

The announcement that the next version of iCal will do group calendaring is welcome news. But I'm curious: What good is group calendaring without shared contact management? Steve Jobs didn't mention any changes for Address Book.

It's always possible that there will be more to the next version of Address Book than Jobs let on in

his WWDC preview of Leopard. And in the meantime, check out Address Book's Sharing preference pane.—Dan Miller

ERIC POLLITT

I applaud the new Spaces feature that will appear in Leopard. But let it be known that Unix windows managers have had a Spaces-like feature since the mid-1990s.

ALAN KULL

I agree that Leopard's full 64-bit support will primarily benefit niche users. But to those users, it is a *critical* feature, and it may represent Apple's best shot at getting deeper penetration into the corporate market. I agree that Apple can't make huge inroads into the front office, which typically relies on Windows PCs. But if it can offer a 64-bit machine at a good price, it could grab a larger share of R&D and engineering departments.

Secret Sharers

IAN WALLBRECH

About the "Surf Smarter" section of "Your Mac's Secrets Revealed" (October 2006): I'm surprised you didn't mention AcidSearch (macworld.com/2227). It's an essential tool for me, allowing me to search different sites from the Google search bar in Safari. It also lets me create my own search channels and keyed or typed shortcuts.



BARBARA MEHLMAN

I like your suggestion about saving online receipts as PDFs in a Web Receipts folder. But for me, if something is in a folder, I forget it. When I purchase something online, I want the receipt on my desktop, where I can find it, until I receive the product and have decided that I'm happy with it. So I use ⌘-shift-4 to take a screenshot of the receipt. Works for me.

JESS WINFIELD

Your tip "Better iWeb Counting" recommends StatCounter as an improvement on iWeb's rudimentary hit counter. It certainly would be an improvement if iWeb let you insert the HTML code required to implement StatCounter into your site. The inability to edit or even view HTML is one of iWeb's biggest drawbacks. Fortunately, there are workarounds. My favorite is iWeb Enhancer (\$13; www.iwebenhancer.com), which, among other things, lets you insert StatCounter code in an iWeb page. Here's hoping Apple makes iWeb a little more flexible in its next release.

The Family Mac

TED SLAWSKI

I think you really missed the mark when you included the Mac Pro in your list of Macs for the family ("Get Smart," October

CORRECTIONS

In the October 2006 *Mac 911*, we mistakenly reported that Wire Tap Pro is a Universal app. It is PowerPC-only.

In our November 2006 story about the Mac Pro, we neglected to credit and thank OWC for providing us with the FB-DIMMs we used in our system-memory tests.

2006). The Mac Pro is clearly aimed at professional customers who need gobs of power, lots of storage space, and ECC memory. Unless your family works for the National Security Agency, the Mac Pro does not belong in that lineup.

LETHA ALVIS

Regarding the "Teen Hot Spots" section in your guide to family computing: I'm disappointed at what you consider safe or appropriate for teens and younger kids. I'm glad I checked out these sites before handing over the list to my 12-year-old. I was astounded at how easy it was to get from the sites you recommended to games and videos that I'd consider adult in content. Please check the content of Web sites more carefully before you label them as kid- or teen-friendly.

Of course, we did check out all the sites on our list, in consultation with the folks at Common Sense Media (www.common sense media.org) and WiredSafety (wired safety.org). I'm sorry you found them inappropriate—but I applaud you for checking them out before your kid did.—Dan Miller

Geeky Extensions

KENN MARKS

I'm really disappointed in the "Private Surfing" sidebar that appeared in the October 2006 *Geek Factor* ("Firefox Extensions for Geeks"). Configuring your Web browser to hide your identity from Web sites might be fine if you're visiting disreputable sites. But it's a bad practice for general browsing. The information Web sites gather about you helps them to tailor their content and marketing. For example, I use that kind of data to encourage my Web-site clients to pay more attention to Mac users.

DAVID NICKLAY

I don't think any Top 10 list of Firefox extensions is complete without Gomita's ScrapBook (macworld.com/2228). It makes other bookmark managers and page-saving features look positively medieval.

Which Camcorders?

TRACY MALLORY

I'm greatly disappointed that you didn't

choose to compare apples with apples in your review of MiniDV camcorders (September 2006). Why, for instance, did you choose to review a cheap Canon camcorder (the Elura 100) alongside two of Panasonic's more-expensive models (the PV-GS300 and PV-GS500)?

In this case, we asked the leading camcorder vendors to provide us with MiniDV camcorders that have built-in still-camera functions. Beyond that requirement, we left it up to the vendors to decide which specific models best represented their product lines.—James Galbraith

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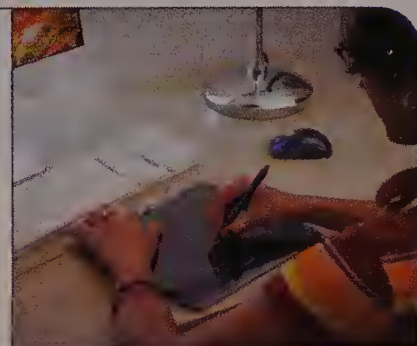
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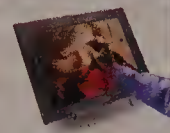
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WHAT'S NEW

WHAT'S IN THE PIPELINE

WHAT'S HOT



Live at Five

5 Reasons for the iPod's Runaway Success

BY RICK LEPAGE

The iPod hasn't been a part of Apple's product line for that long—after all, the Mac is already into its third decade as the centerpiece of Apple's offerings. But that just makes what the portable music player has accomplished since its October 2001 unveiling all the more impressive. Apple has sold more than 67 million iPods in the last five years. The iPod has inspired an entire subindustry devoted to building compatible accessories—there are more than 3,000, according to Apple. And it's a prime driver for Apple's digital media business, which sells downloadable music, TV shows, and, now, movies. How has the iPod managed to achieve so much so quickly? We can think of five reasons, one for each year of the music player's existence.

1. Total Integration

Before Apple released the iPod, no company really did a good job of integrating a player, a computer, and the software that connected the two. Companies such as Rio and Creative would ship someone else's music software in the box with their player, or sometimes they would include their own homegrown software. Whatever you got played music on your Mac or PC just fine—but getting that music from the computer to the audio player was no easy thing.

Transferring music to a portable player in those pre-iPod days didn't seem like a horrible process at the time. But it took the iPod's arrival to let us know just how bad things were. With the iPod, you could stick a CD into your Mac, and, 10 minutes later, it'd be on the device in your pocket—that was integration on a whole new level. And being able to automatically sync your music library just by hooking up the iPod—that was radical.

That integration was dependent upon FireWire, the conduit that helped you move music from your Mac to your iPod. Using FireWire was a no-brainer for Apple, since every Mac shipped with it, but it was still a groundbreaking decision. In 2001, nearly every music player on the market used USB 1.1 to transfer songs from a computer to a player. Talk about frustration. Moving an album, let alone four or five, was an exercise akin to watching glaciers move. You transferred music to your player before you went to bed at night, so your music would be ready to go with you on the morning



Five More Years: The Future of the iPod

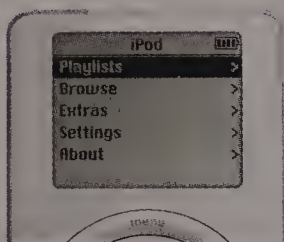
commute. The iPod's FireWire interface made that process obsolete.

But Apple didn't get all hung up on FireWire—something the company definitely would have done a decade earlier. When the majority of shipping Macs and PCs featured speedy USB 2.0 ports as standard equipment, Apple brought the iPod right along with the trend. FireWire still had a place, but Apple smartly chose to use the technology that was more widely available.

2. The Interface

Apple designed a product that was drop-dead easy to use, even if it seems decidedly deficient when you lay it out on paper. When the inclination among other device makers was to add as many buttons as possible, Apple opted for a scrolling wheel, five buttons, and a sparse hierarchical menu system to navigate the music library.

That's why, for many people, the most vivid memory of that first iPod is the device's elegance and simplicity. It was so easy to get to an artist, a song, an album, or a playlist. The way that the volume control worked was brilliant, as was the way you turned it on and off. Nothing got in the way of the music, because the iPod was all about the music. Apple thought about the way that most of us listen to music and squeezed it down to its essence. The company was also admirably restrained and kept from loading up the iPod with features.



Apple has every reason to feel pleased with the iPod's first five years of success. But at the risk of putting a damper on this anniversary celebration, let me pose this question: *Now what?* Doubtlessly, the big brains in Cupertino have a plan of attack for the next five years, but here are three things I wouldn't mind celebrating when the iPod marks its decade of dominance.

The Wide-Screen iPod Apple believes portable music is always going to be more popular than portable video. I agree, if only because you have far more opportunities to absorb music when you're on the go. But if you're going to offer an iPod that plays movies and TV shows as well as music, why not have one that makes the content look as good as possible? The iPod's 2.5-inch screen is remarkably bright and crisp, but it's pretty cramped—particularly for viewing movies formatted for wide screens. Why not offer an iPod that has a horizontal screen?

The Untethered iPod I see a wireless future for Apple's device, when it comes to both listening *and* syncing. Stage one: conjure up an iPod that plays through wireless headphones. Yes, a few manufacturers have

offered wireless Bluetooth headphones for the iPod, but due to poor construction and general discomfort, they've hardly been a raging success. This isn't a problem best left to third parties to solve. Apple has the know-how (and access to the iPod's many internal wonders) to make future iPods broadcast to a roomful of unattached headphones. Stage two: sever the umbilical cord between the iPod and the computer. Bluetooth isn't fast enough, and syncing thousands of tracks (and a few movies) would suck the life out of today's iPod battery, but Apple's got five years to work on this one—a faster communications protocol that pulls content from the ether.

Content for the Untethered iPod Speaking of ether, if the iPod needn't be physically connected to a computer to obtain its content, why not create additional sources for grabbing content? For example, you're at the airport and want the latest chart topper. Stand within 50 feet of a theoretical iTunes wireless kiosk, click over to your iPod's Purchase Music screen, browse the store's catalog, and click again to purchase and download the music you want.—CHRISTOPHER BREEN

3. Windows Support

While it's easy for Mac users to discount Windows, for the iPod to succeed, Apple had to make the device available to PC users. The iPod not only had to run on a PC, but it also, in combination with iTunes, had to be as easy to use on a PC

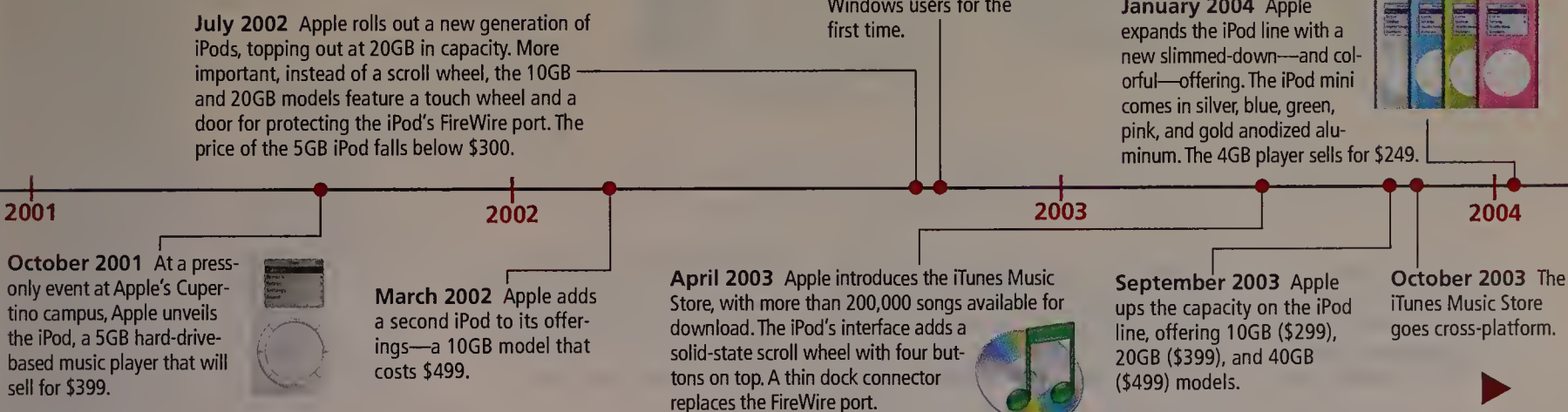


as it was on the Mac. The fact that Apple did it so quickly—iPods for Windows arrived less than a year after the iPod's debut—showed that Apple was committed to the iPod as a platform. That's what really opened the iPod up beyond its initial market of Mac users. If you look at the curve of iPod sales, the first big spike happened after Apple made the iPod Windows-compatible.

continues

iPod: 2001 through 2006

Key iPod Moments from the Last Five Years



4. The iTunes Store

Making the iPod Windows-compatible set the stage for the thing that really kicked the iPod into the stratosphere: the iTunes Music Store. And, like the integration of the iPod with the computer, the integration of that ecosystem with an easy place to fill 30GB of available storage was nothing short of genius.

Apple understood that many old-school music lovers like to build up their collections by rummaging through record bins, looking for music that doesn't cost a lot, and listening to the new stuff on the record store's turntable. With the iTunes Store, Apple brought that record store into our living room (and took our credit cards with it). The capability to browse the store—moving from song to song and artist to artist, and being able to buy one song or a whole album, quickly, easily, and cheaply, was analogous to those old days, if not a vast improvement on them.

5. FairPlay

Including Apple's digital rights management (DRM) technology as a reason for the iPod's success is sure to be a controversial factor, but it can't be discounted. If Apple was going to sell music from the major record labels, the company had to provide a mechanism to prevent buyers from sharing music purchases. There was no way a major label was going to let unprotected MP3 files out of its vault and onto the Internet—Apple needed some sort of DRM system. FairPlay was the company's answer.



What They Said

The following are reactions and ruminations to the iPod's October 23, 2001, unveiling:

"The iPod is no bigger than a deck of cards, but I predict this new handheld digital-music player will stand tall. Very tall. It's going to do for MP3 music what the original Palm Pilot did for handheld computing in the late '90s—that is, ignite demand like a match to dry twigs."—*Charles Haddad, BusinessWeek*

"It's certainly a high-end product, both in terms of price and in terms of capability. . . . Short-term, I think they're going to sell every one they build."—*Giga Information Group research fellow Rob Enderle, Macworld, January 2002*

"Clearly Apple is following Sony's lead by integrating consumer electronics devices into its marketing strategy, but Apple lacks the richness of Sony's product offering. And introducing new consumer products right now is risky, especially if they cannot be priced attractively."—*Technology Business Research analyst Tim Deal, quoted on CNet*

"The Apple iPod sounds like a dream come true—and for anyone with a love of music and a Mac that has a FireWire port, it is one. Although \$399 places the iPod at the

high end of the portable music player market, it buys you a stylish, high-capacity audio player with Mac connectivity that is second to none."—*Jonathan Seff, Macworld, January 2002*

"No wireless. Less space than a Nomad. Lame."—*CmdrTaco, Slashdot*

"I think the iPod will be another one of Apple's failures just like the Newton. It's only for the Mac; not a lot of the MP3 world uses Macs, compared with PCs. It costs \$400; you can get so many other players that work well for much less. Apple could have done more-innovative things with an MP3 player than just make it look cool and give it some fast features."—*Letter to the editor, Macworld, April 2002*

"In a nutshell, the iPod is a high-quality product that works extremely well. It is overpriced for an MP3 player, but you simply can't get this combination of ease of use, convenience, size/weight, battery life, music capacity, and elegance anywhere else. I'm very pleased with it."—*Andrew Welch, Ambrosia Software*

"If Apple ever lowers the iPod's price and develops Windows software for it, watch out: the invasion of the iPod people will surely begin in earnest."—*David Pogue, New York Times*

For DRM, FairPlay is fairly innocuous, and it's generous as well, with its five-computer limit. Even if you consider those restrictions draconian, the iTunes Store's

sales don't lie—by and large, people are willing to put up with it. □

RICK LEPAGE is *Macworld's* editor at large.

July 2004 A new generation of iPods incorporates the iPod mini's Click Wheel interface. A 20GB model sells for \$299 while a 40GB iPod is available for \$399.

October 2004 Apple introduces the color-screen 40GB and 60GB iPod photo and the 20GB iPod U2 Special Edition.

February 2005 The mini becomes available in 4GB and 6GB capacities. A 30GB iPod photo replaces Apple's 40GB offering. Prices fall to \$349 for the 30GB model and \$449 for the 60GB one.

January 2005 Apple gets into the flash-based music player business, introducing the iPod shuffle. About the size of a stick of gum, the shuffle comes in 512MB (\$99) and 1GB (\$149) capacities.

September 2005 Apple replaces the popular mini with the iPod nano. Available in glossy black or white, the nano features a color display and a grey Click Wheel. The 2GB and 4GB nanos sell for \$199 and \$249, respectively.

June 2005 The iPod and iPod photo lines are merged into the iPod (color), ending the availability of monochrome-screen music players. The new iPod is available in 20GB (\$299) and 60GB (\$399) sizes.

October 2005 Apple adds video playback capabilities to the iPod line. To coincide with the launch of the video iPod, Apple releases an updated version of iTunes that includes video playback and TV-show downloads.

February 2006 Apple adds a third offering to its iPod nano line—a \$149 1GB model—and cuts prices on its 512MB and 1GB shuffles to \$69 and \$99, respectively.



September 2006 Apple overhauls its entire iPod product line. The second-generation shuffle comes in only one capacity in a clip-on case. The second-generation nanos are available in 2GB, 4GB, and 8GB capacities and in a variety of colors. The video-capable iPod sees some changes, as well.

October 2006 The iPod line gets another new color, as Apple unveils a red 4GB nano, as part of the Product Red initiative for raising money to combat AIDS in Africa.

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APPLE UPDATES PRO LAPTOP LINE

New Chips for MacBook Pros

With its Intel transition now complete, Apple has begun updating its initial round of Intel-based hardware releases. Now it's the MacBook Pro's turn for a processor upgrade. And according to our tests, the performance gains for the MacBook Pro are about the same as with the iMac when it moved to a Core 2 Duo chip.

What does this mean in terms of performance? Comparing a 15-inch MacBook Pro with a 2.16GHz Core 2 Duo processor to an original Core Duo MacBook Pro featuring the same processor speed, the new MacBook Pro

scored a 209 in Speedmark 4.5, *Macworld's* overall system performance test suite—a 10 percent improvement over the Core Duo-based laptop's score of 190 (see the benchmark chart). Factor in the clock-speed boost to the high-end 15-inch MacBook Pro—the 2.33GHz version—and the Speedmark score improves on the older model by 19 percent, to 226.

(You can find complete 15-inch MacBook Pro benchmarks at macworld.com/2315 and 17-inch MacBook Pro results at macworld.com/2316.)

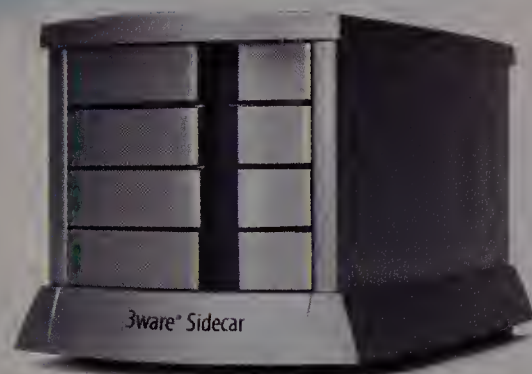
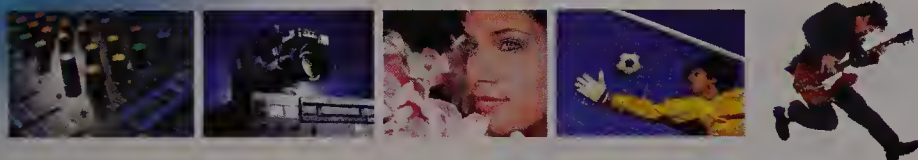


Other changes to the MacBook Pro line include the addition of a FireWire 800 port to the 15-inch models (the 17-inch one already had one), and increased hard-drive capacities. The laptop line also has twice the standard RAM—the 2.16GHz 15-inch model comes with 1GB of memory, and the other two models ship with 2GB, making them the first Macs to ever ship with that much RAM.

The 2.16GHz 15-inch MacBook Pro sells for \$1,999, and the 2.33GHz 15-inch model sells for \$2,499. The 2.33GHz 17-inch MacBook Pro sells for \$2,799.—JIM DALRYMPLE AND JAMES GALBRAITH

Macworld BENCHMARK	Speedmark 4.5	Compressor 2.3	iTunes 6.0.4
	SUITE	MPEG-2 ENCODE	MP3 ENCODE
15-Inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	209	2:17	1:11
15-Inch MacBook Pro Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz (2GB of RAM)	226	2:07	0:58
15-Inch MacBook Pro Core Duo/2.16GHz ^A	190	3:02	1:38
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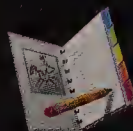
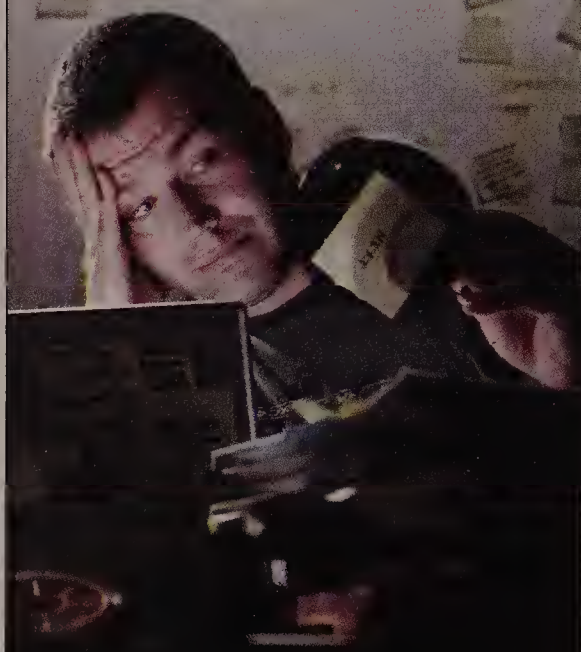
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WORLD OF WARCRAFT EXPANSION PACK ON THE WAY

First Look: The Burning Crusade

If things had gone according to Blizzard Entertainment's (www.blizzard.com) plan, you'd already be playing The Burning Crusade, an expansion pack for the very popular massively multiplayer online role-playing game World of Warcraft. Instead, the company pushed the release of The Burning Crusade from the end of 2006 to January 2007. If it's any consolation, a look at the beta of the expansion pack suggests that The Burning Crusade will be well worth the wait.

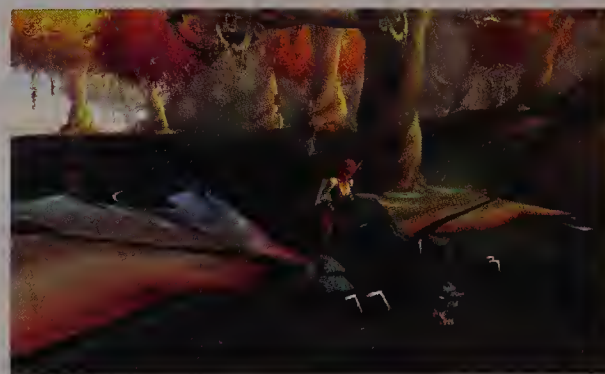
The expansion pack raises the skill cap (the level of experience characters can accrue) from 60 to 70. It also introduces new races (Blood Elves and Draenei), a

new profession (jewel-crafting), and an entirely new continent designed specially for high-level players. For players who haven't grown tired of the existing lands in

Azeroth, Blizzard packed in many new high-level dungeons, starting zones, and quests.

Interestingly, Blizzard's engineers have enabled a setting

in the Intel beta version that takes advantage of multithreaded OpenGL, so the frame rate rendering performance is, in some cases, dramatically improved—doubled, in fact. (Read the full preview of The Burning Crusade at macworld.com/2314.)—PETER COHEN



NEWS IN BRIEF

Adobe Releases Beta Aimed at Audio Pros

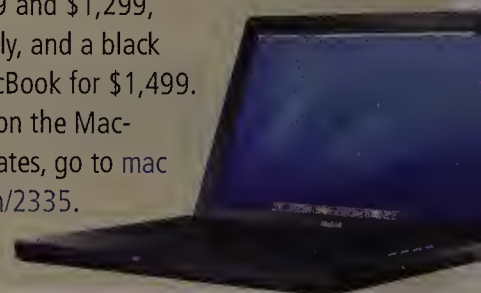
Adobe is targeting audio professionals with its Soundbooth, a new audio application now available as a public beta. Soundbooth users can record, edit, and create audio without having any training in sound production. The application, which runs only on Intel-based Macs and not PowerPC systems, also removes noise from recordings, polishes voice-overs, and customizes music to fit a production. Adobe's latest application seemingly goes head-to-head with Apple's Soundtrack Pro, an audio sequencer for video, DVD, and Web projects that's included in the Final Cut Studio suite.



device that lets you listen to music stored on your computer through a home stereo system. That would be a natural fit with Logitech, which has increased its multimedia and music-accessory offerings in recent years. Terms of the deal weren't disclosed.

MacBook Joins Core 2 Duo Parade

Two weeks after upgrading the processor in its MacBook Pro line (see "New Chips for MacBook Pros" on page 23), Apple followed suit with its consumer MacBook laptops. The MacBooks now run on Core 2 Duo processors, which promise improved performance at the same battery life as their Core Duo predecessors. Clock speeds remain unchanged. Apple offers white 1.83GHz and 2GHz MacBooks for \$1,099 and \$1,299, respectively, and a black 2GHz MacBook for \$1,499. For more on the MacBook updates, go to macworld.com/2335.

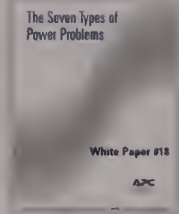


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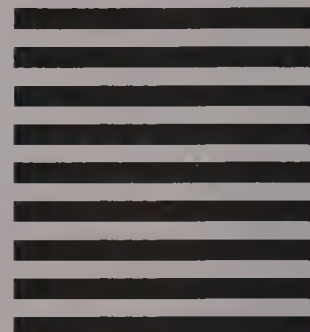
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ONLINE CONTEST FINDS WINNING SHAREWARE IDEAS

When You Wish Upon an App

Cameron Westland designs Web interfaces, not software applications. But nevertheless, an application he conceived, called Atmosphere, will soon be coming to a Mac near you.

The 23-year-old Toronto resident and his would-be program beat out 2,700 other entries in five rounds of *American Idol*-style voting to become the top vote getter in the My Dream App contest (www.mydreamapp.com). The Web-based competition—the brainchild of shareware developer Phillip Ryu—set out to find the most innovative ideas for software. Mac users were encouraged to submit ideas for an application. The initial pool of entries was whittled down to 24 finalists who had to expand further upon their ideas while facing round after round of elimination votes.

The prize? A team of Mac developers will build the winning ideas, with the brains behind the apps receiving 15 percent of the royalties from any sale.

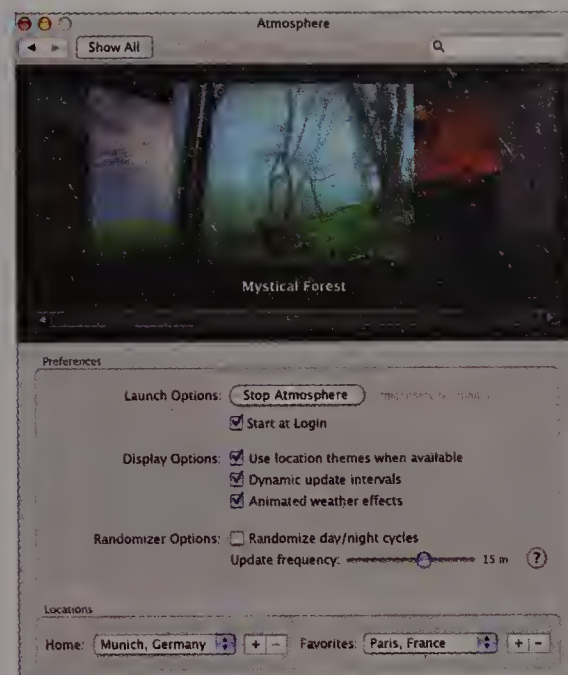
"My Dream App grew into something totally unexpected by the end, especially once the voting rounds began," Ryu says. "The contestants

came up with some amazing visualizations of their ideas—we were all very pleased with how it turned out."

Westland's winning submission, Atmosphere, is a real-time weather-simulation app that brings the weather to your desktop. Atmosphere also cycles with day and night, different seasons, and moon phases—or at least that's the vision that won Westland the most votes.

Two other winning ideas will also be turned into apps. Portal, by Farzad Sadjadi, aims to sync files, folders, and applications between two or more Macs. It's designed to pick up where Apple's sync services leave off, integrating all your syncing needs into one window. The other winner, Cookbook, by Michael Yuan, streamlines many kitchen-related activities, going beyond recipe management to assist in meal planning, ingredient acquisition, and food preparation. You'll be able to plan out meals months in advance, and the required ingredients for those meals will be automatically added to smart grocery lists.

Each application has its own development cycle and will be released separately—shipping dates will depend on the level of developmental difficulty.—JIM DALRYMPLE



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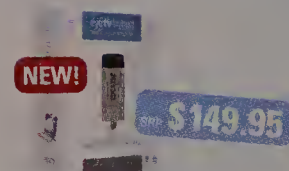
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PICLENS BRINGS SLIDE SHOWS TO IMAGE SEARCHES

A New Light for Pictures

One of my favorite things about the Web is how it has revolutionized the sharing of images. For instance, I use a Flickr account to regularly post images on the Web to share with friends and family. And a quick trip to Google Image Search can result in just about any image you can imagine, and many you can't.

But a Web browser isn't exactly the best interface for looking at pictures. Sure, image sites have come up with some clever ways to improve the experience beyond the standard scroll-and-click approach; sites such as Flickr offer slick slide-show displays, for example. But anyone who's used iPhoto's slide-show feature knows that it's a darn sight better than scrolling through images on Flickr.

Recently, I got a preview of a new utility, available as a Safari-only beta version (a Windows version is forthcoming), that lets you transform any set of

image search-engine results—or galleries on Flickr, Facebook, or Photo-Bucket—into a gorgeous full-screen slide show that looks like what you'd expect from iPhoto or Front Row.

The utility is called PicLens (piclens.com), from CoolIris. After you install it, when you move your mouse over an



image on any of the sites I mentioned, a small icon appears that indicates it's a slide-show-capable page.

Click on the icon and the image zooms to full screen. In the background, PicLens preloads the next few full-resolution images, so there's no delay when you move to the next image. Press the play button and the slide show will go on its own, moving through all the images on the page. (This version displays images only from a single page, but I'd bet that future versions will display images from multiple pages.)

Although it's a beta that has a few quirks, PicLens strikes me as a great idea. It integrates perfectly with Safari and makes a whole lot of sense, especially if you spend a lot of time viewing photos on Flickr. I'm looking forward to seeing where CoolIris goes with PicLens from here.—JASON SNELL

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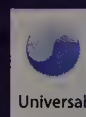
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Thanks for reading all those stories, MOM!

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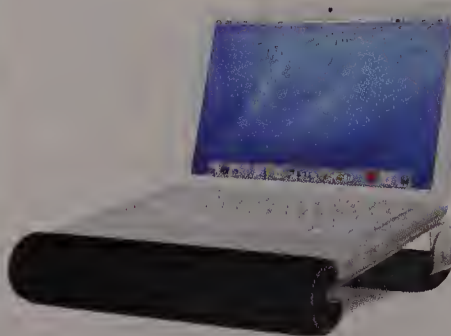
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ON THE IPOD'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY, AUTHOR TALKS ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK

Interview: Steven Levy

As part of our coverage of the iPod's fifth anniversary, *Macworld* Editorial Director Jason Snell spoke with author Steven Levy, a former *Macworld* columnist and currently the chief technology writer at *Newsweek* magazine, about his new book on the creation and cultural impact of the iPod—*The Perfect Thing: How the iPod Shuffles Commerce, Culture, and Coolness* (Simon & Schuster, 2006). For the full transcript of the interview and for our podcast about the iPod's birthday, featuring Steven and several *Macworld* editors, go to macworld.com/2281.

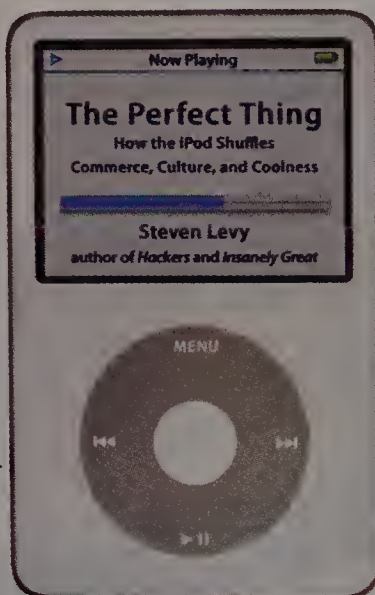
On the book's title, *The Perfect Thing*:

I'm using the word, less in the instance of flawless, and more in the instance of a perfect storm—in a good way. [The iPod] came along at just the right time.

It did just the right thing—[it took] a category which hadn't exploded and created a huge explosion, making huge changes in the way we listen to music, in commerce, in all sorts of things, by its timing and by its excellence, really.

On the nature of coolness:

Everyone thinks the iPod is cool, therefore we can learn about what coolness is by looking at the iPod and asking "Why is this cool?" It's not something that people disagree with. You're not going to find someone, even at Microsoft, to say the iPod isn't cool. So it was a useful exercise to study not only the iPod, but the nature of coolness. And what it boils down to, I think, is the accessible authenticity. As Jobs himself says, we're not trying to be cool. We set out to make something which is authentic, which is something that we want ourselves, which is something where there is this fanatical attention to detail to make every little part of it right. And that translates to the consumer, people can see that, and if it all works together there is almost this involuntary word coming out of your mouth—"Cool!"



On the randomness of the shuffle feature:

With my first iPod, no matter how often I'd shuffle, Steely Dan would play pretty quickly into the shuffle. Then there would be another Steely Dan song, and then after a couple, there would be another one. So I was convinced that my iPod had taken this liking to Steely Dan.

I actually asked Steve Jobs about this, and he put me on the phone with an engineer who insisted it was random. Yet the thing kept persisting, and I actually wrote a column about it. And then my inbox just got filled with people telling me [of] their experiences, not just repeats but playing Christmas songs at Christmas and other things. Some people thought the iPod was psychic.

On the iPod's legacy:

I think the way we'll remember it is as the device that really thrust us into this age where the shuffle [mode] becomes ubiquitous and things come with us all the time. The hard disk has had an amazing revolution. It's the 50th anniversary of the hard-disk drive this year, and I think this is probably as important as the microprocessor was—just the idea that all this content can come with you and it's just packed in there. So I think we're going to remember it not only as something that was incredibly cool to have, and we became part of a tribe of people who kind of silently acknowledged each other as we saw those white earbuds across the subway or at the gym, but it will be something that marked this era of choice and portability.

On what's next for Apple and the iPod:

Everyone's waiting for a wide-screen iPod to better handle the movies. But I think Apple is doing something pretty smart in that it's not losing its focus on music. Music is really just . . . the heart of the iPod experience. □

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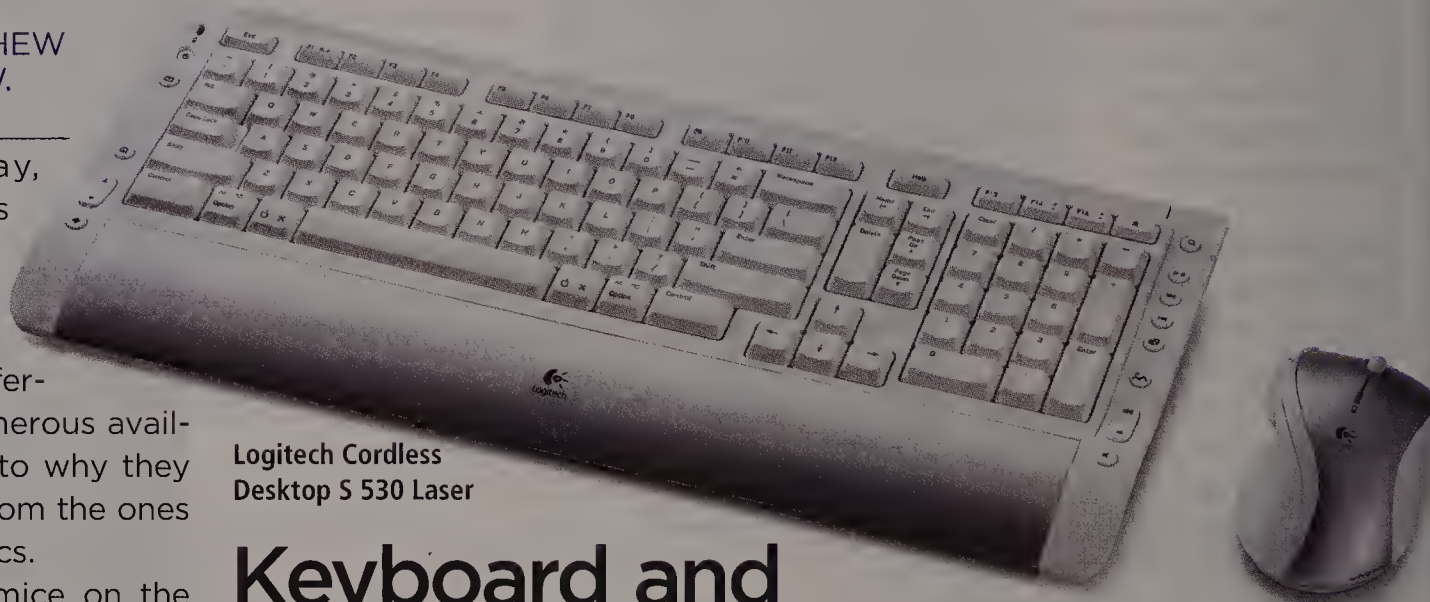
BY DAN FRAKES, MATHEW HONAN, AND OWEN W. LINZMAYER

Aside from a display, no computer accessories get more use than a keyboard and mouse. Yet few people give much thought to the differences between the numerous available input devices—or to why they might want to depart from the ones that came with their Macs.

Many of the newer mice on the market provide more-precise tracking; have more-ergonomic shapes; and sport additional, configurable buttons and scroll wheels. And some include the latest laser technology, which gives you higher resolution and better performance, on a wider variety of surfaces, than you get from standard optical mice.

Many keyboards have special keys for controlling applications—for example, music playback in iTunes or quickly launching your favorite Web browser. Different key technologies, ergonomic designs, and layouts are also available. And both keyboards and mice come in wireless versions that can rid you of cable clutter and allow you to move farther from your computer.

We looked at some of the latest mice, keyboards, and mouse-keyboard combinations, to help you find the input device you've been looking for—or didn't know you needed.



Logitech Cordless Desktop S 530 Laser

Keyboard and Mouse Combinations

If you're looking to upgrade both your mouse and your keyboard, and if the idea of cordless convenience appeals to you, Logitech's \$100 Cordless Desktop S 530 Laser and Microsoft's \$100 Wireless Laser Desktop will be appealing. Each offers a full complement of standard and Mac-specific keys (including dedicated volume and eject controls); plenty of customizable keys; a numeric keypad; a multibutton mouse with laser tracking technology; and radio-frequency (RF) functionality for untethered mousing and typing. The S 530 Laser's strengths are in its hardware, whereas the Laser Desktop's are in its keyboard layout and software.

Logitech Cordless Desktop S 530 Laser

In addition to giving you the standard keys and numeric keypad, the S 530 Laser's keyboard provides 15 function keys (instead of the typical 12); two of them control monitor brightness when the keyboard is used with an Apple laptop. It also offers dedicated keys for launching applications (your e-mail program, iTunes, iPhoto, and your Web browser), controlling iTunes playback (play/pause, forward,

and back), opening a Spotlight window, and browsing (home, back, scroll up, and scroll down). Unfortunately, these keys are haphazardly arranged on the left and right edges of the keyboard.

The S 530 Laser has laptop-style scissor keys; they're slightly softer than the keys on Apple's MacBook Pro keyboard but not as spongy as those on Apple's current desktop keyboards; I enjoyed the feel of typing. The use of shallow scissor keys also allows the S 530 Laser to be quite slim—less than three-quarters of an inch thick. And the back of the keyboard is actually tilted very slightly downward, an orientation that, with a properly configured desk, can be less stressful on your wrists. (You can use flip-out legs to elevate the back of the keyboard.) A hard plastic, but comfortable, wrist rest is permanently attached.

The S 530 Laser includes Logitech's MX 600 cordless laser mouse, which offers very good tracking. The mouse has left- and right-click buttons, as well as a clickable scroll wheel that tilts to the left and right for sideways scrolling. It also has volume-up, volume-down, and mute buttons, and two

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thumb buttons (configured by default to scroll up and scroll down). The mouse's shape and rubber-sided design make it comfortable and easy to use, though the volume controls require an awkward reach with the index finger.

The keyboard's nonstandard keys and all of the mouse's buttons are fully configurable via Logitech's Control Center software. You can even set up different *groups* of settings—for example, a global group that works across all applications, and additional groups for specific applications.

The S 530 Laser's compact wireless receiver plugs directly into one of your computer's USB ports. A USB dock with a five-foot cable is also included; it allows you to place the receiver closer to the keyboard and mouse for better reception. The first time you use the keyboard and mouse, you need to link the input devices and the receiver by pressing the receiver's connect button and then pressing similar buttons on the keyboard and the mouse. For most people, the mouse and keyboard will function properly from then on.

Once linked, I was able to use the keyboard and mouse eight to ten feet from my Mac. However, Logitech has confirmed that there is a problem with some Apple laptops: if you disconnect your laptop from the receiver and then reconnect—for example, when you take your laptop away from your desk and then return it later—you may have to perform this setup procedure more often. The company says that it's working on a software update to fix this problem. I confirmed this issue on a MacBook Pro.

The keyboard requires two AAA batteries, and the mouse requires two AA batteries. Logitech promises battery life of up to six months; after three months of use, the batteries in my system were still going strong. According to the company, the devices' LED battery indicators will flash approximately ten days before new batteries are required.

Bluetooth versus RF

Today's wireless input devices use one of two wireless technologies: radio frequency (RF) or Bluetooth. To connect to your computer, RF devices use a receiver that plugs into a USB port; once that receiver is plugged in, the mouse or keyboard should connect automatically. Bluetooth devices require either built-in Bluetooth support or a USB-connected Bluetooth receiver. After you complete a slightly more complex process to *pair* your Bluetooth input device with your computer, that device should work with your computer until you delete the pairing.

Which technology is better? If your Mac has built-in Bluetooth support, a Bluetooth input device may be more convenient, since it doesn't require a separate receiver. On the other hand, because RF devices pair with the receiver, and not a specific computer, it's easier to use them with multiple computers, and they tend to work as soon as you plug in the receiver. With Bluetooth, there's sometimes a delay after waking your computer from sleep or logging in before your Bluetooth devices are recognized. Finally, both technologies use frequencies that can disrupt—or be disrupted by—nearby electronic and wireless devices; one or the other may work better in your house or office.—DAN FRANKS

(You can also press the keyboard's F1 key to test the keyboard's battery.)

Microsoft Wireless Laser Desktop

Microsoft's hardware accessories for the Mac have traditionally been of high quality. And the Wireless Laser Desktop, Microsoft's first wireless mouse-keyboard combination designed specifically for the Mac, also fits this description.

The keyboard has all the standard keys, as well as an excellent set of customizable keys for launching applications (your e-mail program, iChat, iTunes, iPhoto, your Web browser, and Calculator), controlling iTunes, logging out and putting your Mac to sleep, and opening as many as five favorite files or additional applications. There's a find key that emulates ⌘-F in the currently active application. And a slider control lets you zoom in and out within documents; however, this feature works only in certain applications, such as Safari and Microsoft Word and Excel. These additional keys are arranged in logical groups on the keyboard's left and top edges.

The Microsoft keyboard has a slightly spongy feel; it's a bit firmer than Apple's

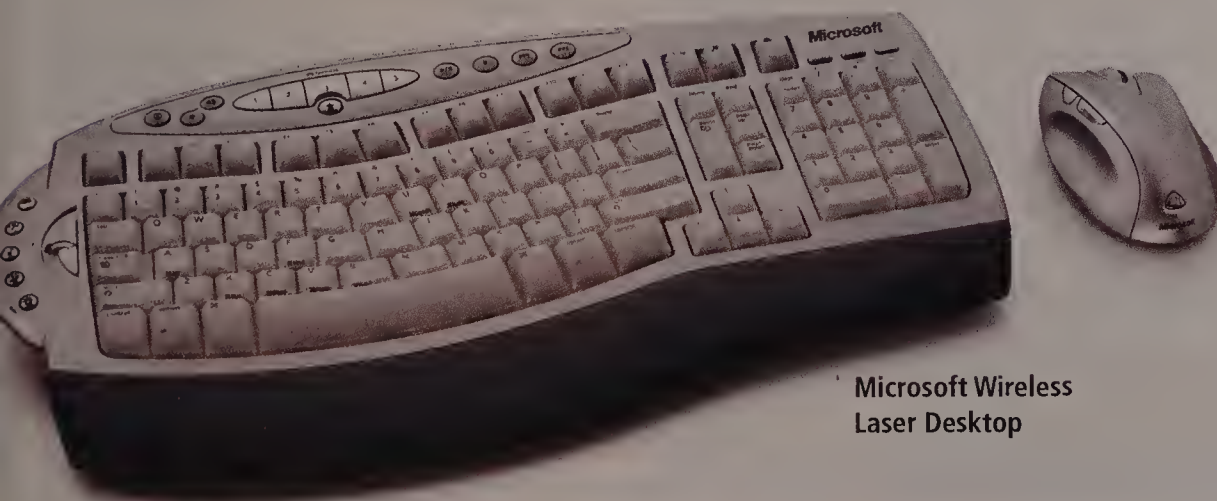
desktop keyboards. The main keyboard area is arranged in a slight *V* shape for a more ergonomic layout, and the spacebar and modifier keys (⌘, option, and control) are quite large, so they're easier to access than the same keys on many other keyboards I've tested. Keys that have ⌘-key functions have those functions printed on their sides (for example, because ⌘-C is the Copy command, the C key is labeled Copy)—a nice touch. A padded wrist rest is attached.

Like Logitech's mouse, Microsoft's included Wireless Laser Mouse 6000 offers very good tracking. It also provides right and left buttons, a clickable scroll wheel that tilts to the left and right for sideways scrolling, and two thumb buttons. (By default, the thumb buttons are set for the back and zoom functions. Microsoft's driver software uses Apple's Universal Access technology to let you zoom the screen in and out—just hold down the zoom button while turning the mouse's scroll wheel.) Although the mouse is comfortable, the scroll wheel doesn't provide that familiar ratcheting sensation and feels mushy and imprecise. I also found the two side buttons difficult to press because of their location and because they're somewhat recessed into the body of the mouse.

Microsoft's excellent included software lets you customize all the mouse's buttons, as well as the keyboard's custom keys and function keys. As with Logitech's software, you can create application-specific settings. The Mouse and Keyboard utilities also let you quickly check both battery and wireless-signal levels and can help you troubleshoot poor signals. (A dialog box pops up to alert you if your keyboard or mouse signal is low.)

The Laser Desktop's receiver is a bulky, oval device with a six-foot cable that con-

continues



Microsoft Wireless
Laser Desktop

nects to a USB port on your Mac. As with the S 530 Laser system, you connect Microsoft's keyboard and mouse to your Mac by pressing a button on the receiver and then pressing the connect buttons on the keyboard and mouse; this links the components. The keyboard and mouse worked reliably 10 to 15 feet away from the receiver.

The keyboard and mouse require two AA batteries each. After well over a month of testing, the batteries retained a nearly full

charge; Microsoft promises six-month battery life.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Logitech's Cordless Desktop S 530 Laser is my choice because it provides both a good keyboard and a good mouse—a rare feat. Except for the unintuitive layout of the keyboard's custom keys, both components are comfortable and have well-organized buttons and keys, and the wireless feature works

well. However, if you have a laptop, you may want to wait until the company releases an update to its driver software.

The Wireless Laser Desktop, Microsoft's first mouse-keyboard combination for the Mac, includes solid features, an excellent keyboard layout, and good wireless functionality. However, its mouse has an imprecise, mushy scroll wheel and hard-to-reach side buttons, and some users may find the keyboard's keys to be a bit too spongy.—DAN FRAKES

INPUT DEVICES COMPARED

Company	Product	Rating	Price	Contact	OS X/Processor Compatibility	Pros	Cons
MOUSE-KEYBOARD COMBINATIONS							
Logitech	Cordless Desktop S 530 Laser	★★★★	\$100	www.logitech.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/Universal	Low-profile keyboard with ergonomic inverse tilt; configurable keys and mouse buttons; dedicated volume, eject, and brightness keys.	Keyboard and mouse occasionally lose connection with receiver when used with laptops; custom keys haphazardly organized.
Microsoft	Wireless Laser Desktop	★★★★½	\$100	www.microsoft.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/Universal	Comfortable keyboard design; good key layout; excellent customizable keys; dedicated volume and eject keys; good mouse tracking.	Mushy, imprecise scroll wheel; somewhat spongy keys; bulky wireless receiver; zoom slider on keyboard functions only in certain applications.
KEYBOARDS							
I-Rocks	KR-6810M Mac X-Slim Keyboard	★★★★	\$30	www.i-rockusa.com	not applicable ^c	Laptop-style keys with good feel and backlighting; slim profile.	Help key too easy to press; no dedicated volume or eject keys; backlit keys difficult to read.
KeyOvation	Goldtouch Apple Compatible Keyboard	★★★★½	\$139	www.keyovation.com	not applicable ^c	Ergonomic design lets you split keyboard and choose elevation and separation angles; dedicated volume and eject keys; good key feel.	No numeric keypad; only one control key, located apart from main keys; left-hand ⌘ key placed uncomfortably far to the left.
Evoluent	Mouse-Friendly Keyboard ^A (macworld.com/2332)	★★★★½	\$64	www.evoluent.com	not applicable ^c	Position of numeric keypad on left reduces reach to mouse for right-handed users and may be good for left-handed users.	Windows keyboard layout; crowded; most special keys useless on a Mac; bad location of delete and help keys.
Adesso	Mac Slimmedia Mini Keyboard ^A (macworld.com/2331)	★★★★½	\$30	www.adesso.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/PowerPC	Slim keyboard despite nearly full complement of full-size keys; good number of media and customizable keys.	Stiff keys; no home, end, page-up, and page-down keys; no Intel drivers for media keys.
BenQ	DeskSaver Companion ^A (macworld.com/2329)	★★★★	\$50	www.benq.com	not applicable ^c	Slim, compact keyboard design; laptop-style keys with good feel; dedicated volume and sleep keys; lightweight optical mouse.	Keyboard and mouse each require a separate USB port; crowded keys; Windows-centric modifier-key layout.
MICE							
Apple	Wireless Mighty Mouse ^B	★★★★	\$69	www.apple.com	10.4/Universal	Good battery life; on/off switch; excellent wireless range; attractive design; useful scroll ball lets you move in every direction.	Force-sensing side buttons difficult to press; limited button-programming options.
Logitech	MX Revolution	★★★★★	\$100	www.logitech.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/Universal	Excellent tracking; highly customizable software; battery-life indicator on mouse; many buttons; excellent smooth or geared scroll wheel.	None significant.
Kensington	Si300 Laser Mouse	★★★★	\$30	www.kensington.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/Universal	Great tracking; nice grip on sides; all buttons work out of the box; good software; inexpensive; ambidextrous.	Not wireless; fewest buttons.
Evoluent	VerticalMouse 2 ^A (macworld.com/0355)	★★★★½	\$75	www.evoluent.com	not applicable ^c	Natural position can relieve tension in your mousing arm.	Expensive; third-party driver costs \$20 more; left-handed version costs more.
Kensington	Ci60 Optical Wireless Mouse ^A (macworld.com/2330)	★★★★	\$30	www.kensington.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/Universal	Wireless; USB extension cable included; good software; inexpensive.	Subpar tracking; clumsy scroll wheel; poor power and battery features.
MacMice	Danger Mouse ^A (macworld.com/2327)	★★★★	\$30	www.macmice.com	not applicable ^c	Inexpensive; silent scroll wheel; toggles resolution on-the-fly.	Lacks advanced features; no software included.
MacMice	The Mouse BT II ^A (macworld.com/2326)	★★★★	\$70	www.macmice.com	not applicable ^c	Quiet scroll wheel; includes charging cradle.	Mediocre feature set for the price; no software included.
RadTech	BT600 Wireless Desktop Mouse ^A (macworld.com/2328)	★★★★½	\$60	www.radtech.com	10.2, 10.3, 10.4/Universal	Bluetooth; on/off switch on mouse; cable for use when batteries are dead; rechargeable; ambidextrous.	Paused during detailed tracking; battery-charge problems.

^AThe full review of this product is available online at the URL listed or from macworld.com/2333. ^BSee macworld.com/2349 for a longer version of this review. ^CNo software included.



Apple Wireless
Mighty Mouse

Cutting the Mighty Cord

Less than a year after releasing the original Mighty Mouse (🖱️; macworld.com/0777), Apple improved on this powerful input device by replacing its USB cord with a wireless Bluetooth connection and upgrading its eyesight with a precision laser tracking engine that works on almost any surface. This innovative mouse is a nearly perfect partner for any user.

The wireless Mighty Mouse is powered by one or two AA alkaline, lithium, or rechargeable batteries. Two batteries should last for well over a month of normal use, thanks to intelligent power management that conserves energy when the mouse is idle. There's also an on/off switch.

The Mighty Mouse enjoys a wireless range of 30 feet and frees up a USB port (if your Mac doesn't have built-in Bluetooth, you must use a USB Bluetooth adapter).

Like its tailed predecessor, the wireless Mighty Mouse has a clean design unmarred by unseemly buttons. Just push down on the front of the mouse to click. Sensors automatically and accurately distinguish between right and left clicks.

The tiny scroll ball on the top of the unit also acts as a button. Two force-sensing buttons on the sides act as a fourth button when squeezed simultaneously, but clicking them required so much pressure that I couldn't do it without moving the cursor. These buttons may also cause pain to sensitive hands.

All the buttons can be configured in the Mouse tab of the Keyboard & Mouse preference pane. The scroll ball on the top can scroll vertically, horizontally, and diagonally. But the Mighty Mouse's limited button programmability is its biggest weakness.

Macworld's Buying Advice

Apple's wireless Mighty Mouse is competitively priced, and it's an excellent choice for desktop and portable users alike (though owners of black MacBooks might pine for a black model).—OWEN W. LINZMAYER

DAN FRANKS is a *Macworld* senior editor. MATHEW HONAN is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Wired*, *Salon.com*, and *Time*. OWEN W. LINZMAYER is the author of *Apple Confidential 2.0: The Definitive History of the World's Most Colorful Company* (No Starch Press, 2005).

Keyboard-Mouse Makeover

Looking for a new keyboard or mouse for your Mac but feeling uninspired by the boring, run-of-the-mill options? We looked at some unusual keyboards and mice to help you get an idea of the variety of products available. We tested the I-Rocks KR-6810M Mac X-Slim Keyboard and KeyOvation's Goldtouch Apple Compatible Keyboard, as well as the Logitech MX Revolution and the Kensington Si300 Laser mice. The keyboards use a compact design that crowds function keys in an uninterrupted horizontal row and places the home, end, page-up, and page-down keys in a vertical row. The mice include software that lets users program both overall and application-specific settings for each button, and clickable scroll wheels that can act as additional buttons.

I-Rocks KR-6810M Mac X-Slim Keyboard

This compact, 104-key keyboard sports easy-to-press laptop-style scissor keys that feel responsive. A full numeric keypad is included on the right side of the keyboard; however, there are no dedicated volume and eject buttons. It's also odd that the keyboard has two control keys on the left side, and the location of the help key—next to the right-hand control key—makes it too easy to press accidentally.

The X-Slim's unique feature is its backlit keyboard, useful for typing at night or in a dark room. You use the convenient on/off switch above the numeric keypad to control backlighting. Unlike the backlit keyboard in Apple's professional laptops, on which only key labels are illuminated, the X-Slim's entire keyboard is lit, with a blue glow shining through each key. However, only the edges of the keys are actually translucent.

KeyOvation Goldtouch Apple Compatible

Keyboard One of the few ergonomic keyboards designed specifically for the Mac—and the most expensive model we looked at—the KeyOvation Goldtouch has the Mac ⌘ and option keys, as well as Mac-specific volume and eject keys. The keyboard is split into halves that are joined by a ball joint; you open a large lever on the top edge of the keyboard to adjust the incline of each half, and to adjust the angle of the space between the two halves. The result is a keyboard that lets you type with your wrists in a more natural and neutral position. Despite the multiple-piece design, the Goldtouch keyboard feels quite solid.

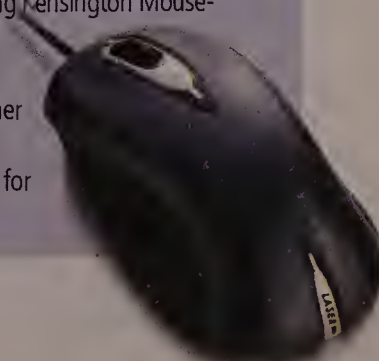
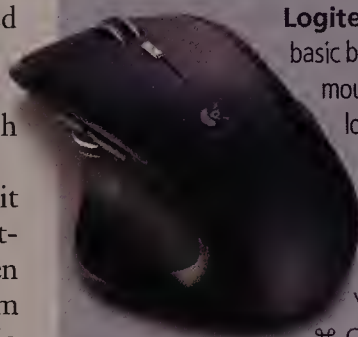
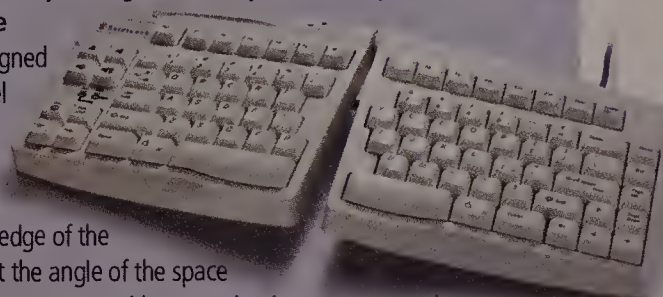
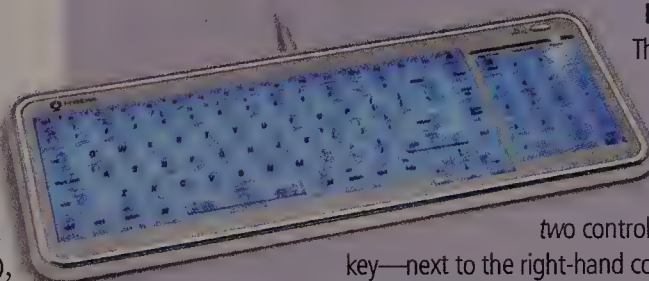
In order to provide symmetrical keyboard halves, KeyOvation has omitted the numeric keypad from the Goldtouch. And instead of laptop keys, the Goldtouch has standard keys; although the keys are a bit spongy, they're easy to press and provide good tactile feedback. Some drawbacks to the key layout are that it has only one control key, located far off to the left (apart from the main keyboard area), and that the left-hand spacebar is too long.

Logitech MX Revolution This mouse redefines what an input device should be. The basic buttons—left click, right click, and scroll wheel—work right out of the box. The mouse tracked flawlessly in our Photoshop test, detecting minute movements without losing its wireless connection. The ergonomic right-handed design keeps the hand in a comfortable position. The small wireless receiver plugs into any USB port.

The MX Revolution has five buttons, as well as two clickable scroll wheels, one on the top and the other near the thumbrest. Logitech's software provided the most configurable global and application-specific settings of the mice we tested. You can program the buttons to perform keystroke combinations such as ⌘-X or ⌘-C. A top button that launches Spotlight is highly useful, but it can be reconfigured. By default, the scroll wheel on the mouse's side lets you flip between open applications; this is a more efficient way to do that than using the Finder or Exposé. The top scroll wheel not only spins vertically, but also tilts from side to side—extremely useful when you're working with wide spreadsheets or using a 12-inch laptop. Most interestingly, a SmartShift feature allows the mouse to scroll in either a ratchet-style mode or a smooth-turning mode, depending on your needs—it would be hard to find a better scroll wheel.

There's a battery-life indicator in the software and on the mouse, so you can see at a glance whether it needs a charge—not that it needs one very often. The one drawback to this mouse is that it's not Bluetooth, so it takes up a USB port.

Kensington Si300 Laser Mouse The Si300 is a wired, two-button laser mouse with a clickable scroll wheel that tilts sideways for scrolling through wide documents. All its buttons work out of the box—including sideways scrolling—and it can be customized with Kensington's software. The mouse's tracking was very good—roughly equal to that of the MX Revolution in terms of precision when lassoing images in Photoshop. The scroll wheel moves smoothly, though the MX Revolution's smooth scrolling is preferable to the Si300 Laser's incremental geared scroll wheel. One nice feature of the accompanying Kensington MouseWorks software is that it lets you use button combinations to perform additional tasks. Although the mouse has fewer buttons (there are only three, including the scroll-wheel button) than the MX Revolution, and although it uses a USB cable rather than operating wirelessly, it's a favorite, thanks to its solid all-around performance, great tracking, full functionality, and great price. (Please go to macworld.com/2333 for additional keyboard and mouse reviews.)—DAN FRANKS AND MATHEW HONAN





New Shuffle Is the Tiniest iPod Ever

Second-Generation Player Offers Few New Features

BY CHRISTOPHER BREEN

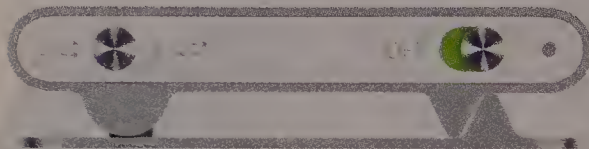
Smaller than a matchbook and no thicker than a AAA battery, the second-generation (2G) iPod shuffle comes in a single 1GB capacity, with a silver aluminum finish and a metal spring clip for securing the iPod to yourself. Its audio quality isn't as good as that of its predecessor (or of its contemporary larger siblings), but it offers solid battery life. And at \$79, it's nearly an impulse buy.

Like the original shuffle, this iPod has no display; therefore, it's almost impossible to navigate to the track you want at a particular moment. If you require that kind of control, this is not the iPod for you—get a 2G iPod nano (★★★★; macworld.com/1767) or a 5G iPod (★★★★; macworld.com/1769) instead.

The Details

The 2G model has the same setup as the original shuffle: a central play/pause button and four controls—previous, next, volume up, and volume down—arrayed around a rocker-style Click Wheel. Its power and shuffle or repeat toggle switches are located on the bottom, and you plug your headphones into the top.

The 2G shuffle requires the included dock for syncing and powering the player. The dock is small, bearing a single mini-plug jack that sticks up from a plastic base. While the dock is easy to carry, I miss the all-in-one convenience of the original shuffle, which incorporated the USB connector into the iPod.



New Location The new shuffle's on-off switch and shuffle control are now on the bottom of the player.

After talking up the superiority of the earbuds bundled with the latest iPod nanos and full-size iPods, Apple chose to include the original Apple earbuds with the 2G shuffle. Given that I've replaced my headphones with better-sounding alternatives, this doesn't bother me, but some people may be disappointed that they're not getting Apple's latest and, supposedly, greatest 'buds.

Minuscule LEDs that glow green, orange, or red appear on both the top and bottom of the 2G shuffle—they're so minuscule, in fact, that they're hard to read, particularly in bright environments. These lights convey a variety of messages—the charging status while the iPod's docked, and whether the Hold switch is on. Fortunately, Apple provides a small card that indicates what most LED blinks mean. I wish this iPod included a separate battery indicator light, as did the original. Quickly turning the iPod on and off to see how much charge remains is difficult with such a tiny switch.

Required dock, no display, teensy LEDs, and Lilliputian switches: see a pattern? Cute as a button though the 2G iPod shuffle may be, its size makes it more difficult to use than larger iPods. But you may not care if you plan to just press play and go about your business.

iTunes and the Shuffle

The current and original iPod shuffles behave similarly in iTunes. You can set aside a certain amount of storage for data use—turning the shuffle into a USB key drive. Both models support the Autofill feature, which lets you load tracks you choose from specific iTunes playlists. And iTunes' capacity gauge tells you how much of the iPod's storage space you're using for audio and data.

This shuffle supports AIFF—an uncompressed file format that sounds great but produces large files. Still regrettably missing, however, is support for Apple Lossless files, which sound as good as uncompressed files but take up half the storage space.

Performance

In our tests, the 2G shuffle significantly bested Apple's play-time estimates—playing continuously for 16 hours and 31 minutes. This is enough time to play nearly every track on a packed shuffle.

Syncing with the dock happened fairly swiftly. On a dual-2GHz Power Mac G5, it took just under five minutes to sync a playlist of 258 AAC tracks that were between three and five minutes in length, encoded at 128 Kbps. Comparatively, in listening tests with the bundled Apple earbuds, Sony's MDR-V6 over-the-ear headphones, Etymotic's ER-4P in-ear headphones, and a pair of Audio-engine's A5 speakers, the 2G shuffle was noisier than an original 1G iPod shuffle. It exhibited a faint hiss discernible in quiet passages of a Bach keyboard concerto encoded as both an uncompressed WAV file and a 128 Kbps AAC file. And a 4GB 2G iPod nano offered more definition in lower frequencies than the current shuffle. For an iPod designed for use in clangorous environments such as the gym, a subway car, or a city park's packed jogging trail, audio purity may not be the point. I found the sound acceptable, but if you demand the very best audio an iPod can offer, this model doesn't provide it.

Macworld's Buying Advice

The new shuffle is sure to be as popular as its predecessor, largely because it's sturdy, holds more than enough music for even a daylong workout, and is reasonably priced. The shuffle's small size is a testament to efficient engineering, but it also makes for a music player that could be easier to use and that will go missing more easily than a larger iPod. It may not be the best-sounding player Apple has made, but given the situations in which you're likely to use it—during workouts or for kicking around when a larger iPod is just too much to carry—it's a more than capable musical companion. Quibbles aside, the 2G iPod shuffle is the perfect first iPod for kids and for people who, inexplicably, have yet to own an iPod, as well as a worthy second, third, or fourth player for current iPod owners. □

RATING: ★★★★★

PROS: Cute; rugged finish; good battery life; attractive price.

CONS: Audio quality not as good as that of some other iPods; small size makes it harder to use; no Apple Lossless support.

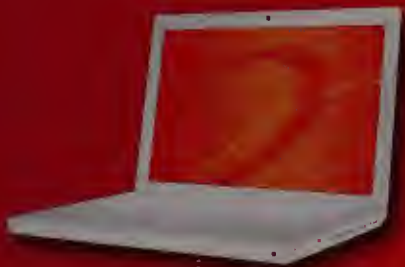
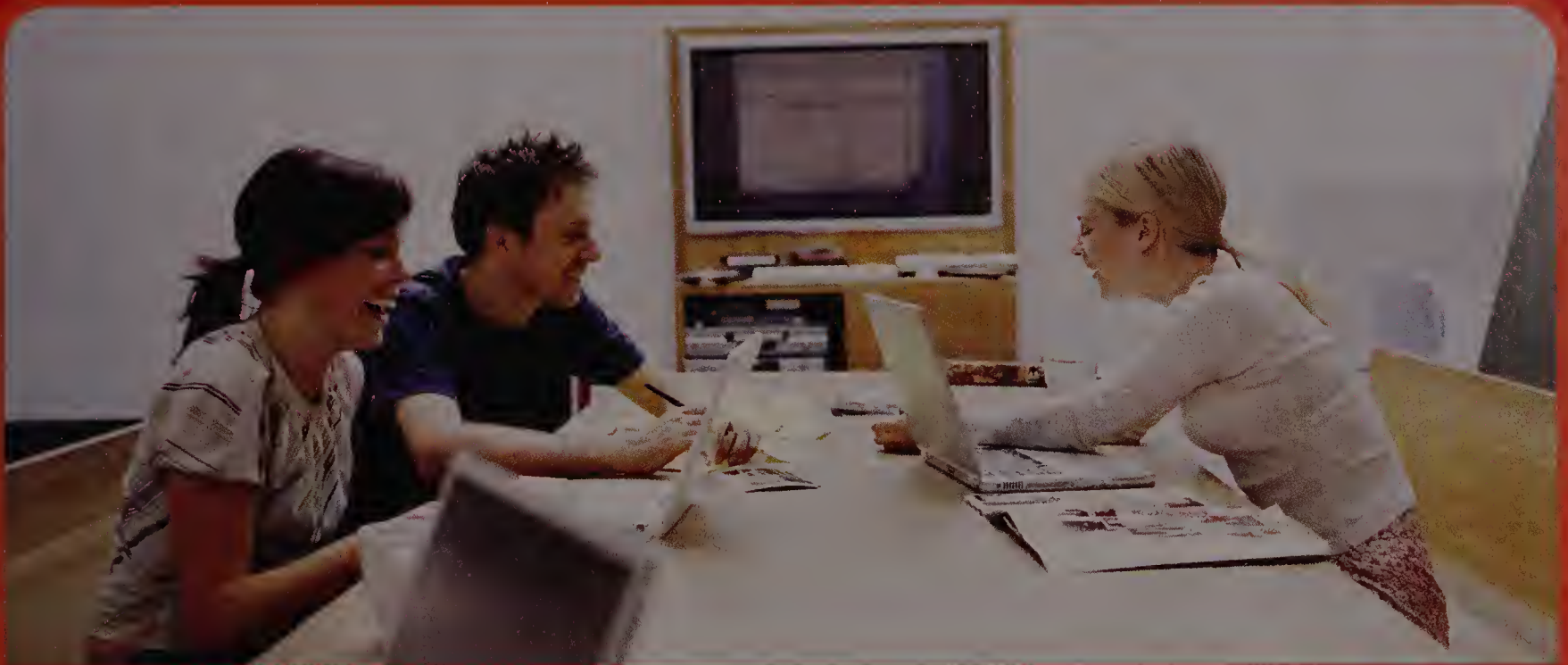
PRICE: \$79

COMPANY: Apple Computer, www.apple.com

CHRISTOPHER BREEN is a senior editor at Macworld.

Everything to concept, collaborate and create.

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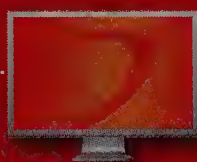
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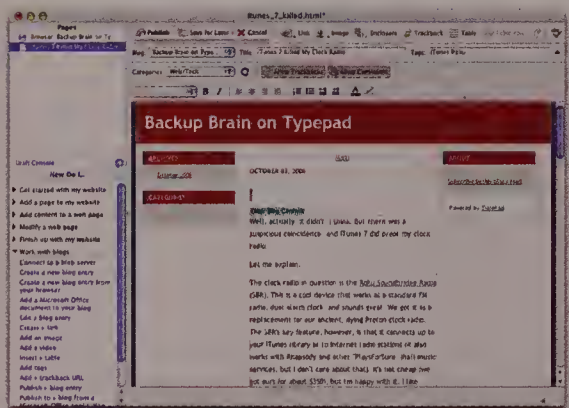
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More Reviews

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★★★★½ **Aperture 1.5** ▲ (\$299; free upgrade), from Apple Computer (www.apple.com): Aperture is designed to handle every phase of the digital photography process: importing photos and managing a photo library; selecting and sorting through large image collections to find the best ones; enhancing and optimizing images; and creating output, ranging from prints to photo books to Web pages. With version 1.5, a free upgrade to previous versions, Apple addresses most of the design short-comings that have kept many photographers away from Aperture, but there's still room for improvement to this program (macworld.com/2306).

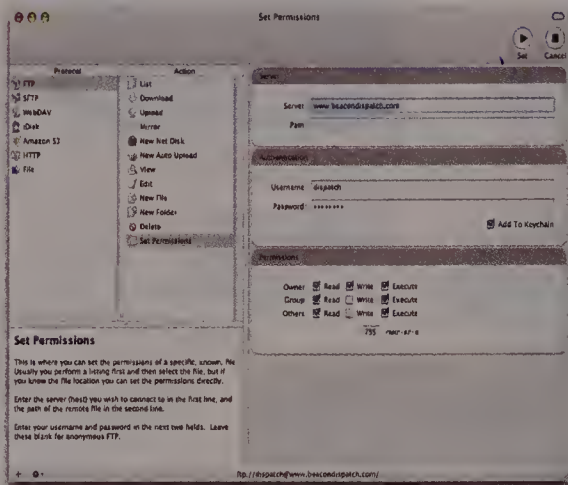


★★★★½ **Contribute 4** ▲ (\$149; \$79 upgrade), from Adobe (www.adobe.com): Web designers and IT departments usually purchase Contribute for other people to use. It allows everyday users to maintain, edit, and add new Web pages from templates, without needing to know HTML. Contribute 4 is especially useful if you're looking to add blogging to your site as a major feature. However, the lack of Microsoft Office integration is irritating—Adobe has had plenty of time to bring the program into parity with the Windows version (macworld.com/2307).



★★★★ **InspireData** ▲ (\$79), from Inspiration Software (www.inspiration.com): InspireData is an

analysis tool that math, science, and social science instructors can use to help their students turn abstract data into a variety of graph types. By using a simple and intuitive spreadsheetlike data-entry system, students can rearrange data in different ways (macworld.com/2308).



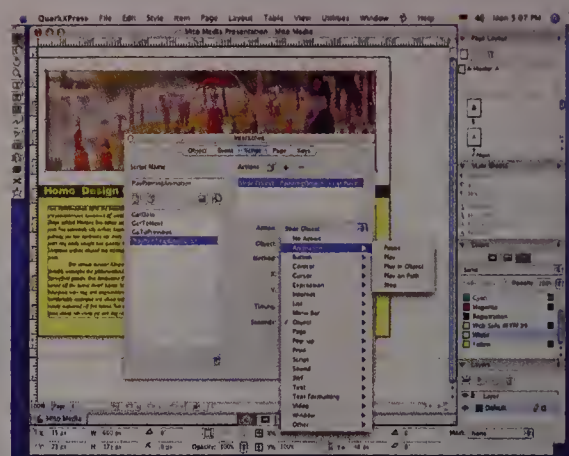
★★★★½ **Interarchy 8.2** ▲ (\$60), from Stairways Software (www.stairways.com): Long a favorite among FTP power users, Interarchy 8.2.2 is a versatile FTP program. It has several new features, including a major interface change, Universal support, Amazon.com S3 file-sharing support, HTTPS support, and about a dozen other minor enhancements. The program's new look may throw Interarchy 7 users a curve at first, but the new version is a significant enhancement to what is already a first-class FTP application (macworld.com/2309).

★★★★ **ProClick V1.6** ► (\$60), from Razer Pro Solutions (www.razerpro.com): The ProClick V1.6 mouse is made for designers, illustrators, and other creative pros who can benefit from a high-resolution optical mouse. It features terrific precision and software that lets you program both its sensitivity and its seven buttons. Not everyone needs a mouse like this, but not everyone needs a Ferrari to get to work either (macworld.com/2310).

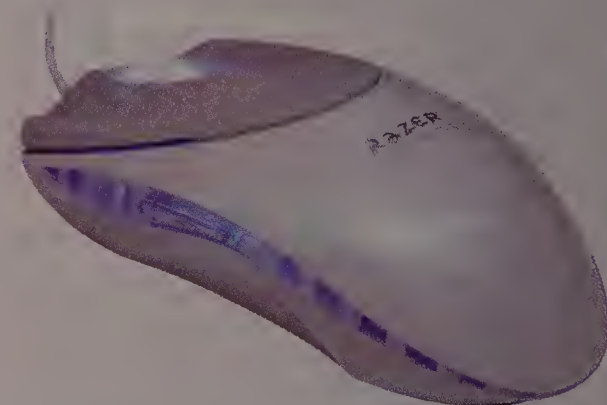
TELEVISION TUNERS

Tune It In

★★★★½ **EyeTV Hybrid** (\$150), from Elgato (www.elgato.com): Elgato knocks one out of the park with its newest offering: the very versatile EyeTV Hybrid, a USB stick TV tuner capable of bringing both digital over-the-air broadcasts (including HDTV) and analog TV from cable or a traditional antenna to your Mac. Supported by Elgato's mature and ever improving EyeTV 2 scheduling software, you can't really go wrong with this product (macworld.com/2312).



★★★★ **Quark Interactive Designer 1.0** ▲ (\$199; introductory price until April 1, 2007, \$99; academic version, free to Quark 7 users), from Quark (www.quark.com): Quark Interactive Designer is a plug-in for any QuarkXPress 7 designer who wants to create interactive content with Flash or who has existing content to convert for Web use. It works well for creating presentations, interactive tours, and online ads and banners, as well as for converting your pages into a Web site complete with multimedia content. Even if you own Adobe Flash, there is no easier or faster way to convert your existing design into an SWF movie (macworld.com/2311).

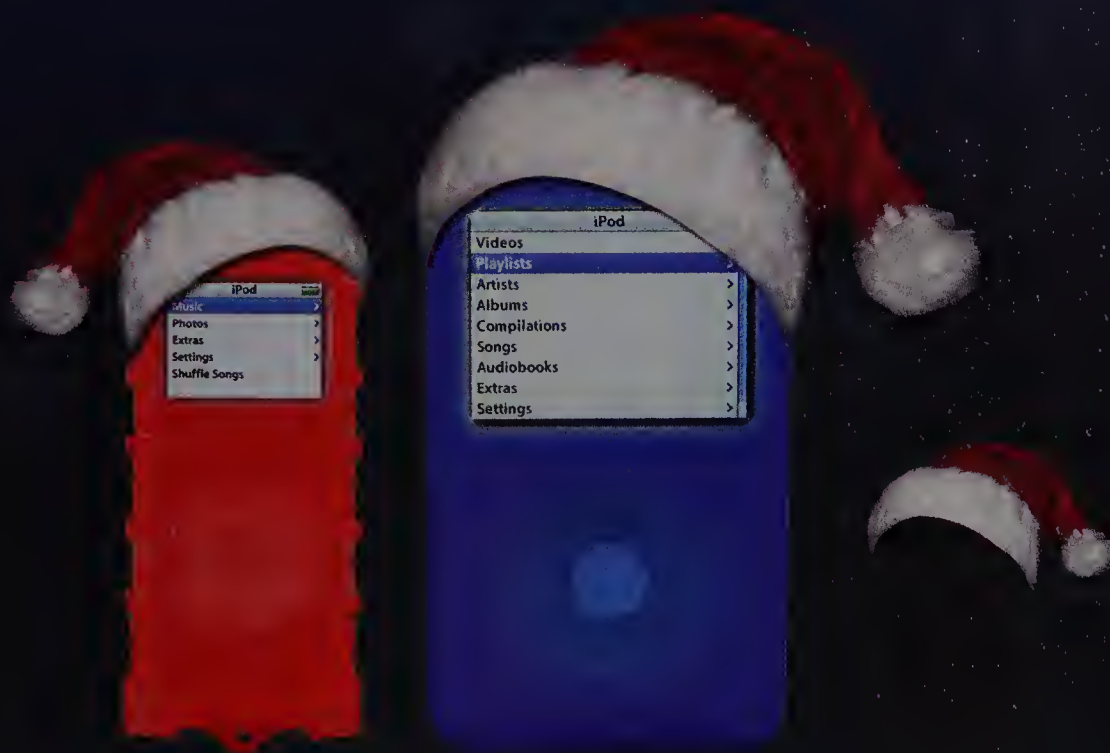


★★★★ **TVMicro** (\$99), from Miglia (www.miglia.com): Miglia's TVMicro looks more like a first-generation iPod shuffle than a TV tuner—but how could that be considered a bad thing? This USB 2.0, bus-powered, and analog TV tuner is something you can take with you anywhere you go. It has most of the features found in the EyeTV Hybrid, and it costs about \$50 less; however, it won't let you capture digital TV (macworld.com/2313).



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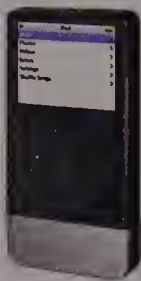
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iPod Gear

For more iPod-related news and product reviews, visit www.playlistmag.com.

Power Accessories

★★★★½ i603 and i604 (\$65), from iLuv (www.i-luv.com): Heading out for a long trip but have sketchy AC access? iLuv's i603 (for 30GB video iPods) or i604 (for 60GB video iPods) battery boosters will give you more quality time with your player. The i603 and i604 enclose your iPod, providing protection, but they also add quite a bit of bulk. The i604 provided nearly 60 hours of music and more than 13 hours of movie playback on a 60GB iPod; the smaller i603 offered slightly shorter playback times on a 30GB iPod (macworld.com/1716).



★★★★½ iAirPlay Charger for iPod (\$30), from Monster Cable Products (www.monstercable.com): If you travel a lot with your iPod, you'll want to take a look at Monster's iAirPlay, which can power and charge an iPod from a special power plug provided on many newer airplanes as well as from an accessory jack adapter in cars. Given its small size and light weight, the iAirPlay is a no-brainer accessory for frequent travelers (macworld.com/2182).



★★★★ iPod USB Power Adapter (\$20), from Sonnet Technologies (www.sonnettech.com): Sonnet's iPod USB Power Adapter is available in white or black, with a USB port at one end and a flip-out, U.S.-style AC plug at the other. To charge your 4G or later iPod (or your 1G iPod shuffle), you connect it to the adapter's USB port with the included USB dock connector cable (you may need a plug adapter [not included] to use it outside the United States [macworld.com/1717]).



★★★★ TuneJuice (\$20), from Griffin Technology (www.griffintech.com): Many battery add-ons extend your iPod's playback time significantly, but they tend to be heavy and bulky. This runt of a battery pack uses a single 9-volt battery to provide about four hours of music playback time to a dead iPod or eight additional hours to an iPod that's still running on its own power (macworld.com/2150).



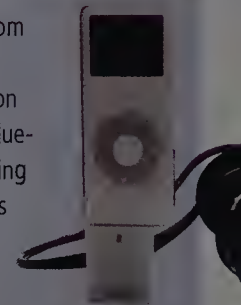
NEW: SPEAKERS

★★★★½ i300 (\$400), from Jamo (jamo.com): Jamo's i300 is a sub-woofer and satellite system that provides home-stereo-quality sound, but its components are small enough to be hidden in most rooms. Its iPod-matching white or black materials, 150-watt sub-woofer, and universal iPod dock look and feel solid. Despite a few minor aural flaws and a \$400 price tag, it truly can take the place of a typical home stereo—a claim made, often falsely, by other manufacturers (macworld.com/1718).



NEW: WIRELESS HEADPHONES

★★★★½ iMuffs MB210 (\$180), from Wi-Gear (www.wi-gear.com): The iMuffs MB210 is an updated version of the company's original iMuffs Bluetooth wireless headphones. Weighing in at only 2.3 ounces, the earpieces sit loosely over the ears and are connected by a flexible plastic, behind-the-head band. The iMuffs' transmitter is slightly smaller than a matchbox and draws its power from the iPod. All you need to charge the iMuffs headphones is the included USB cable—by connecting it to either your computer or the included AC-to-USB adapter. The system produces adequate sound, but the design does little to block outside noise (macworld.com/1719).



iPODS

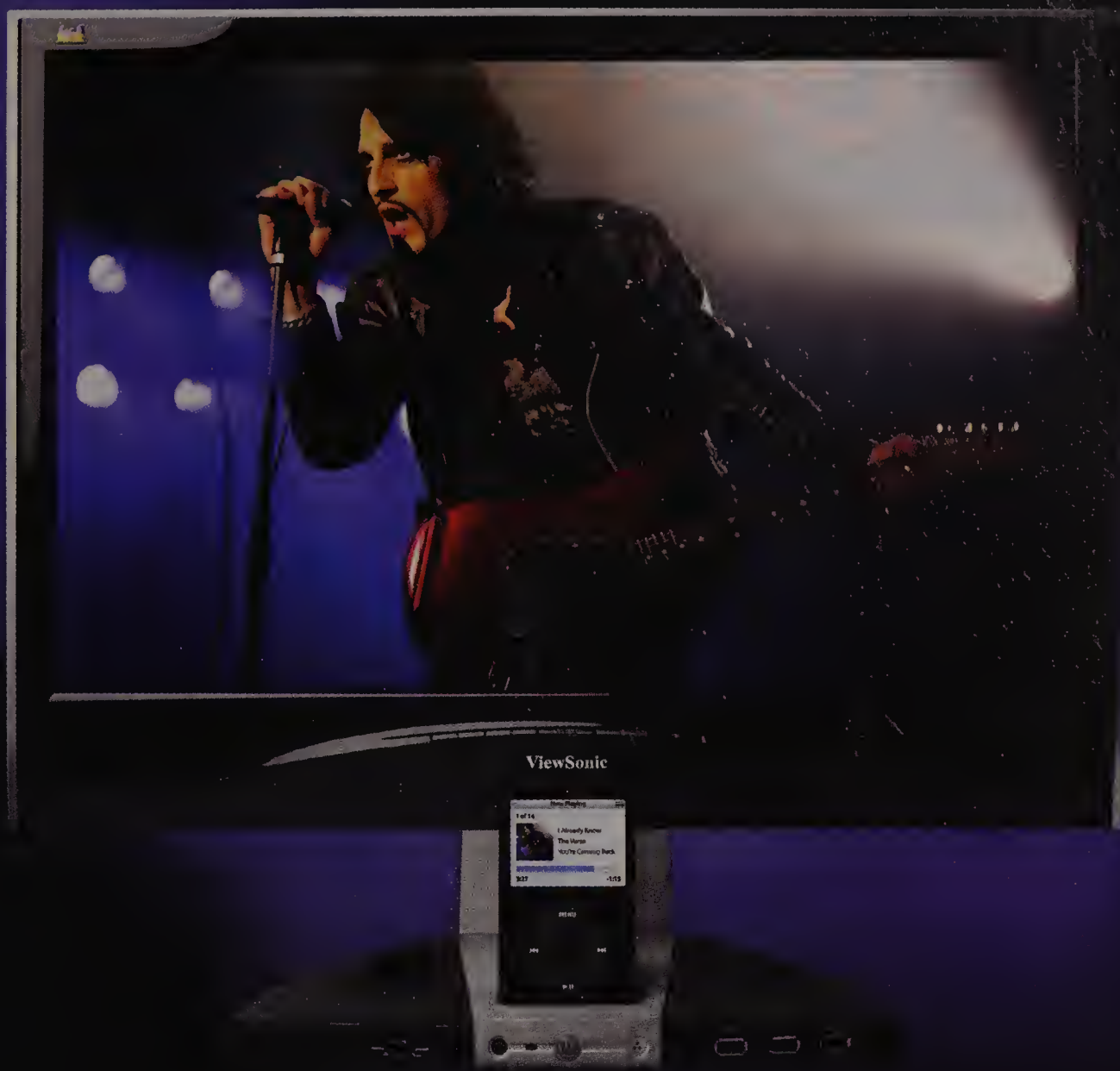
Product	Capacity	Rating	Price	Display	Battery-Life Maximum	Media Supported	More Information
iPod 	30GB	★★★★½	\$249	2.5-inch color	14 hours of music playback; 4 hours of slide shows with music; 3.5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	macworld.com/2233
iPod 	80GB	★★★★½	\$349	2.5-inch color	20 hours of music playback; 6 hours of slide shows with music; 6.5 hours of video playback	Music, photos, album art, video, games	macworld.com/2234
iPod nano 	2GB	★★★★½	\$149	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of slide shows with music	Music, photos, album art	macworld.com/2235
iPod nano 	4GB	★★★★½	\$199	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of slide shows with music	Music, photos, album art	macworld.com/2236
iPod nano 	8GB	★★★★½	\$249	1.5-inch color	24 hours of music playback; 5 hours of slide shows with music	Music, photos, album art	macworld.com/2237
iPod shuffle 	1GB	★★★★	\$79	N/A	12 hours of music playback	Music	macworld.com/2238

N/A = not applicable.

NEW: IPOD NANO CASE

★★★ Pull-i (\$19 to \$21), from Pull-i (www.pull-i.com): Pull-i's eponymous case for the iPod nano looks like a shrunk version of an eyeglass case—basically a wool felt pouch that comes in five colors and six designs. Once you insert the nano (upside down), only the headphone jack and dock connector are accessible. To use the front or top controls on the nano, you have to remove the iPod from the Pull-i. While encased, the iPod is protected from scratches and all but the most forceful blows. The Pull-i would be a good choice for keeping your iPod nano in a purse or bag without fear. And its fairly inconspicuous look might make it less of an enticement for electronics thieves (macworld.com/1720).





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COMPUTER

HOMework TRACKER

Assignment Planner 2.3.4

A vital but mundane task for students is keeping track of homework and other assignments. Any good calendar program—such as iCal—can help, but I recently came across Logan Design's Assignment Planner 2.3.4 (♦♦♦½; \$5; macworld.com/2267), a homework tracker that offers many features students will appreciate.

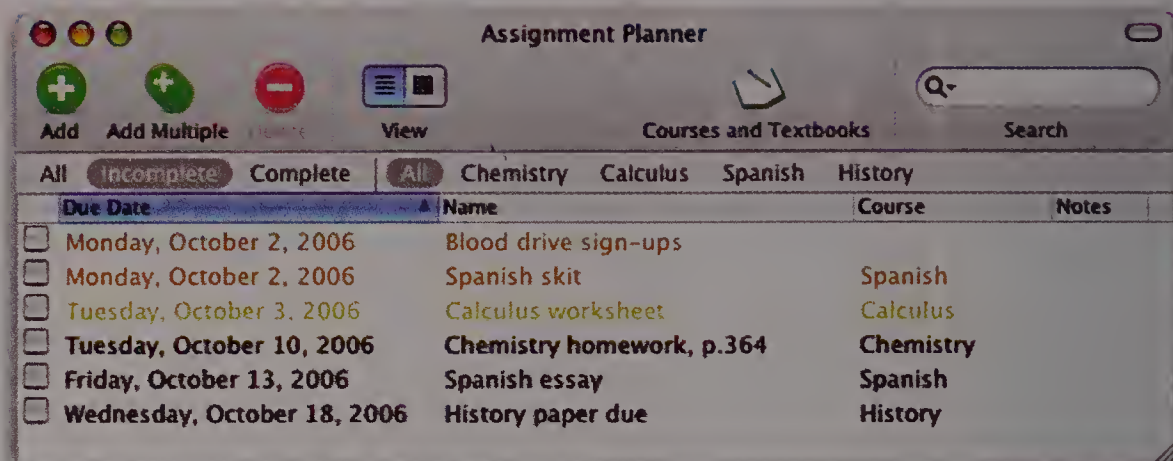
You add an assignment to Assignment Planner's list much like you would a calendar event in iCal, except that your task doesn't include times—you just designate the date the assignment is due or the day you're having a test or quiz (Assignment Planner is sort of a cross between a calendar and a to-do list). You can also enter notes about the event, such as the course name, textbook, and type of project, by using the Assignment drawer. And there's a place to enter your grade and more information. If you have recurring assignments, the Add Multiple Assignments command lets you create repeating tasks.

You view upcoming assignments in either Calendar or List view. Calendar view displays an on-screen calendar with assignments shown on their due dates. List view displays tasks as a text list that you can sort by column: Complete, Name, Due Date, Course, Textbook, Type, Grade, or Notes. Assignments are color-coded based on their due dates. In addition, you can use the filter buttons to change the view to show assignments by completion status.

Also included are calculators to determine your GPA and what grade you'll need on a course's final exam to achieve a particular course grade. A nice extra is the optional Dashboard widget that displays all tasks due in a specified range of time.

You can export your task list to a text file or iCal (which means that you can then sync your assignments with your iPod).

Assignment Planner doesn't include a manual, nor are there detailed instructions on the developer's Web site, so you'll have to learn to use the application as you go. I'd like to see a few more options for display-



The Dog Ate It Keep track of homework with Assignment Planner—and never need a lame excuse again.

ing tasks, and it would be nice to be able to further filter the view by date so that you could see only the tasks that are due in a particular time frame. And a pop-up calendar for choosing an item's due date would be helpful—the default Due Date field is difficult to use if the due date is more than a couple of weeks from the current day.

Sure, you could create a system similar to Assignment Planner, using iCal or one of a number of good to-do managers out there, but I think \$5 is a reasonable price for an application that's designed specifically for this purpose and provides a more-useful display for students.

FILE-ENCRYPTION UTILITY

Knox 1.1.1

OS X's FileVault feature can store your entire user folder as an encrypted disk image. Although doing that adds a layer of security to your work, it can also adversely affect your Mac's performance, can make backing up your computer more of a hassle, and—most seriously—can result in the loss of your entire account if something ever goes wrong with FileVault's monolithic disk image.

So many people have opted to instead use smaller encrypted disk images to store specific data. You can create these disk images in OS X's Disk Utility, but if you use them frequently, or have a bunch of them already, managing them can be a pain. Marko Karppinen & Co.'s Knox 1.1.1 (♦♦♦♦; \$30; www.knoxformac.com) makes creating and managing these disk images easy and convenient.

A New Vault command brings up the New Vault dialog box. You give your new vault—Knox's term for an AES 128-encrypted disk image—a name and password. Then you choose whether to store your password in the Keychain, which is convenient but makes the contents of your vault accessible to other people when you're logged in to your account.

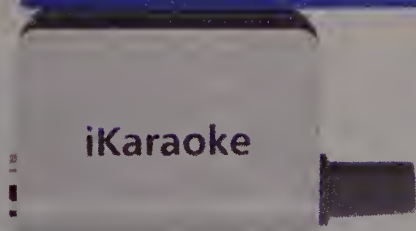
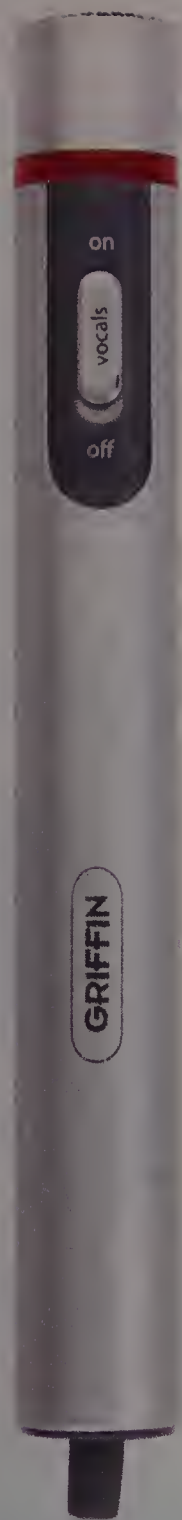
You can choose the maximum size of your new vault—to save hard-drive space, don't make it much larger than you think you'll need. You can also choose where to store your new vault and whether to allow Spotlight to index its contents. Letting Spotlight index the vault allows you to search for files in the vault, but only when it's mounted. Lastly, you can drag files and folders into the area at the bottom of the window to automatically copy them to the new vault as it's created.

Whenever you want to open a vault, you choose it from Knox's Vault menu or click and hold on its icon in the Dock (or you can choose it from the Knox menu-bar menu, if you've enabled it). Choosing the vault again from the menu unmounts it. Open vaults display a check mark next to their names.

The disk images that Knox creates are standard OS X disk images, so you can also open them by double-clicking on them in the Finder, and unmount them just as you would any other removable volume.

Clicking on the Vaults tab in Knox's preferences lets you manage your vaults: you can rename or move a vault, change its password, or compact it so that it uses less space on your hard drive.

continues



iKaraoke

Karaoke for Your iPod

iTalk Pro

CD-Quality Stereo
Microphone for iPod



iTrip auto

FM Transmitter and Car Charger for iPod

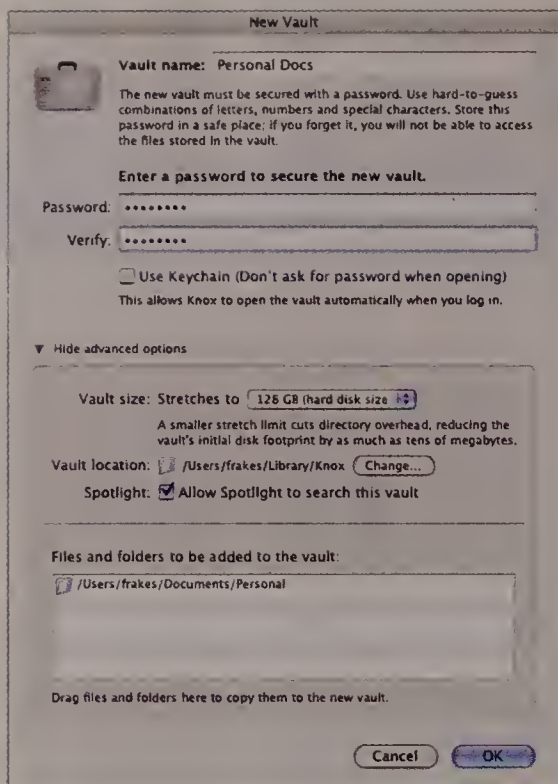


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Like a Fort Knox helps you create and manage encrypted disk images, to keep your data safe.

Knox also offers a useful backup system. By choosing a backup location and schedule, you can have Knox automatically back up any or all vaults to a local hard drive, an iPod, an iDisk, or a network volume. Knox unmounts each vault at the designated backup time. Each vault can have its own backup schedule and settings, and you can also back up a vault manually by using the Knox Dock menu or menu-bar option. Whenever a vault is backed up, a copy of that vault's disk image is created in the backup location, with the date and time of the backup included in its file name.

If you ever need to restore a vault, choose Restore from Knox's Dock menu or menu-bar menu; Knox will present you with a list of backup disk images residing in the backup location. Select one and click on the Restore Selected Backup button to replace the current vault with the backup version.

Overall, Knox is a nifty utility that gives you many of the benefits of FileVault without the overhead, along with many of the benefits of individual encrypted disk images via an easier-to-use interface than FileVault's. Its biggest drawback is that its \$30 price may be a bit high for people who aren't heavy users of encryption.

PHOTO-MANAGEMENT UTILITY

iPhoto Library Manager 3.2.3

iPhoto has become the shoebox of the Mac digital-photo generation. But iPhoto has two significant shortcomings: poor perfor-

mance with large photo libraries and limited support for multiple libraries. Brian Webster's iPhoto Library Manager 3.2.3 (ⓂⓂⓂ; \$20; www.iphotolibrarymanager.com) offers solutions to both problems by letting you split your photos into multiple libraries and easily switch between them.

When you first launch iPhoto Library Manager, it will display only your current iPhoto library. If you already have multiple libraries, click on the Add Library icon in the iPhoto Library Manager toolbar and then navigate to a library to add it; repeat this process for each existing library (you can also drag and drop libraries into the iPhoto Library Manager window). After the initial setup, your libraries will always be listed. If you want to create a new library, click on the New Library button, give the library a name, and then choose where to save it (the Pictures folder in your user folder is the default location, but you can choose to save it anywhere on your hard drive, on an external drive, or even to a network server).

You can then switch between libraries by choosing one and clicking on the Relaunch iPhoto button. iPhoto Library Manager will then relaunch iPhoto and display the chosen library. You can also switch between iPhoto libraries via iPhoto Library Manager's Dock menu (which lists all your libraries), or by creating a shortcut that you can double-click on in the Finder (File: Create Shortcut, or just drag a library from the app's main window into the Finder).

But basic library-switching is just the tip of the iceberg with iPhoto Library Man-

ager. When you select a library in the list on the left, the app lists all albums and folders in that library in the middle column (you can choose to view the album's rolls instead). On the right, you'll see the current location of the chosen library, the version of iPhoto it's currently compatible with, and its modification date. Click on the Calculate Size button, and iPhoto Library Manager will calculate the size of the library.

iPhoto Library Manager also lets you work with photos between libraries. For example, if you want to move an album or a folder of albums from one library to another, choose the source album on the left—so that its albums and folders display in the middle pane—and then drag the desired albums or folders from that library to another library. iPhoto Library Manager will switch iPhoto to the destination library and then import the chosen albums or folders. What's more, your albums maintain their organization, and your imported photos even retain their metadata (ratings and so forth).

This ability to move albums and folders between libraries means that you can use iPhoto Library Manager to manually merge multiple libraries—or just parts of multiple libraries—into a single library, or to split an existing library into two smaller ones. Unfortunately—or fortunately, depending on your point of view—you can't delete photos and albums from within iPhoto Library Manager; you need to switch to the album or photos in iPhoto and then delete the items from there.

continues

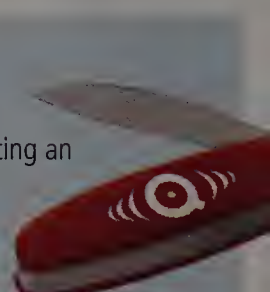
Promising Prospect

Over the years, Apple's QuickTime software has become more versatile, supporting an ever-increasing number of formats. And thanks to Telestream's free Flip4Mac Windows Media Components, you can even view most Windows Media files in QuickTime.

But there are still formats QuickTime doesn't support. If you're determined, you can find and install other third-party QuickTime plug-ins (such as the DivX decoder) to supplement QuickTime's built-in compatibility, but doing so is a hassle if you need support for multiple formats. That's why Perian 0.5 (free; perian.org) is so appealing. This QuickTime component incorporates support for a good number of file formats: 3ivX, AVI, DivX, DivX 3.11 alpha, Flash Screen Video (V1), FLV, MS-MPEG4 v1, MS-MPEG4 v2, MS-MPEG4 v3, Sorenson H.263, Truemotion VP6, and XviD.

In addition, Perian also lets QuickTime play many AVI files that contain embedded H.264, MPEG-4, AAC, AC3 Audio, and VBR MP3 content (although AC3 files require an additional component—you can find out more about supported formats on the Perian Web site).

Although Perian is currently a prerelease beta version, it's already earning rave reviews on the Web for letting Mac users view many multimedia files they've been unable to enjoy before. For example, I've been able to play—and convert—a number of FLV files in QuickTime Player and QuickTime-enabled apps that previously required a separate video player. If you've come across content you can't view, give Perian a try.



Gifts fit for "The King"

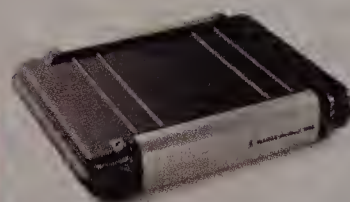
(Don't be cruel. Be cool.)

Luxe cases with Swarovski crystals
from Case-mate



Match your iPod with your sequined jumpsuit.

Case-mate's Luxe line of cases for iPod nano are made from Napa leather, and are accentuated by the brilliance of genuine Swarovski crystals beneath the Click Wheel. Protect your iPod in style, whether you're in Memphis or Vegas.



iKaraoke
from Griffin

Eliminate the vocals from your iPod music and sing away. Thank you, thank you very much.

SportSuit Sprinter
from Marware

Left the building in a hurry? This sporty case lets you hold and control your iPod on the move.

Sportsuit Sensor+
from Marware

Use the Nike + iPod Sport kit with any pair of running shoes, even if they're blue suede.

1080 Hardback Case
from Pelican

Protect your laptop from drops and unruly fans with this watertight and airtight case.

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from Sonic Impact
This portable speaker system protects your iPod and sounds great. Let's rock, everybody.

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If you want to merge two or more complete libraries into a single one, iPhoto Library Manager's Merge Libraries command lets you choose the libraries you want to merge and the library they should be imported into. A Duplicate Library command creates a copy of an existing library that you can experiment with; the original is left untouched.

iPhoto Library Manager also has several advanced features that any heavy iPhoto user will appreciate. The Rebuild Library command can rebuild a corrupt or damaged library based on its AlbumData.xml file. This can sometimes save a library if you find that you can no longer open it in iPhoto. If this doesn't work, you can use the Extract Photos command to rescue photos from a specific library and put them into a new folder in the Finder. You'll lose all your albums and organization, but at least you'll have your photos—and using iPhoto Library Manager for this task is much easier than sifting through a library's folder in the Finder.

Another useful feature is the Import Photos command, which lets you import a folder of new photos directly into a particular library without having to open that library in iPhoto first.

Finally, if you have a photo-capable iPod, iPhoto Library Manager will let you consolidate photos from across your iPhoto libraries into a single folder on your hard drive, and you can then use iTunes to synchronize that folder with your iPod: choose this new folder—instead of a particular iPhoto album—in iTunes' Photo sync preferences for your iPod.

The iPhoto Library Manager Help system is excellent and provides some of the most detailed information I've ever seen for learning about the structure of an iPhoto library. iPhoto Library Manager is a must-have utility for people who love

iPhoto but whose photo collections have outgrown iPhoto's practical capabilities.

IPHOTO ADD-ON

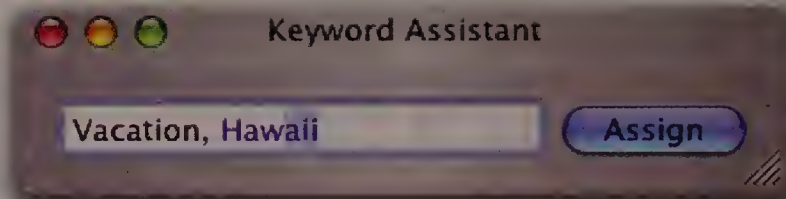
Keyword Assistant 1.9.3

One of iPhoto's most useful features is keywords. Unfortunately, too few people use keywords regularly. Some people simply don't know about the feature, but even those who do don't seem to regard it as useful. Perhaps one reason for that is iPhoto's clunky keyword interface. To assign keywords, you have to select photos and then either drag them to each keyword box in the Keywords pane at the lower left corner of the main iPhoto window, or open the Photo Info palette and select individual boxes in the Keywords tab. iPhoto's interface isn't horrible, but it doesn't make it easy to assign keywords to multiple photos. And if you want your keywords to appear in alphabetical order in iPhoto, you have to rearrange them manually in iPhoto's preferences.

Thankfully, there's a better way: Ken Ferry's Keyword Assistant 1.9.3 (★★★★; free; macworld.com/0287). After installing Keyword Assistant, you'll see a new KA menu in iPhoto. Choose Show Assistant from that menu, and Keyword Assistant's keyword-input window appears.

Using this small window, you can quickly assign keywords to selected photos: Just type the name of the keyword and click on the Assign button (or press the return key). But the beauty of Keyword Assistant is that it's smarter than a simple text-entry field—it has an autocomplete feature that's based on your existing keywords, and it prioritizes those

keywords by most-recent use. What if you want to assign multiple keywords to a photo or group of photos? Press the tab key instead of return, and Keyword Assistant inserts a comma and a space; then you can type the next keyword. When you're done, press the return key or click on Assign,



Who's There? Keyword Assistant makes quick work of adding keywords to your pictures in iPhoto.

and Keyword Assistant applies all the keywords to the selected photos.

You can even create new keywords right from this window: just type the new keyword and assign it. You'll be asked if you really want to create the new keyword. Click on the Create button to add it to iPhoto's keyword list and assign it to the selected photos. Unlike iPhoto, in which creating many keywords clutters the interface, Keyword Assistant makes it nearly as easy to use forty keywords as it is to use four.

If you like to assign people's names as keywords, you can also set Keyword Assistant to search Address Book for names (first or full names) when you're entering keywords.

While adding keywords, you can navigate photos without having to switch to the main iPhoto window. Just press ⌘-left arrow and ⌘-right arrow to select the previous or next photo, respectively. Unfortunately, you can't add the shift key to these shortcuts to select multiple photos; for that, you need to switch to iPhoto's main window.

You can also remove keywords for an image: just type those keywords into the box and hold down the option key—this changes the Assign button to a Remove button. There's also a way to remove all keywords from an image at once.

On the negative side, you can't use the keyboard to select multiple photos while the Keyword Assistant window is active. Keyword Assistant also doesn't work with keywords containing commas or with a space at the beginning or end. Finally, because Keyword Assistant works closely with iPhoto's own code, you need to make sure that the version of Keyword Assistant you're using is compatible with your version of iPhoto.

But these flaws are minor compared to the benefits Keyword Assistant offers over iPhoto's own keyword interface—they're enough of an improvement for me that I've actually started using keywords. □

DAN FRAKES is a senior editor at *Macworld* and the senior reviews editor at *Playlistmag.com*. Send your thoughts on this column, or on things you'd like to see in future columns, to macgems@macworld.com.

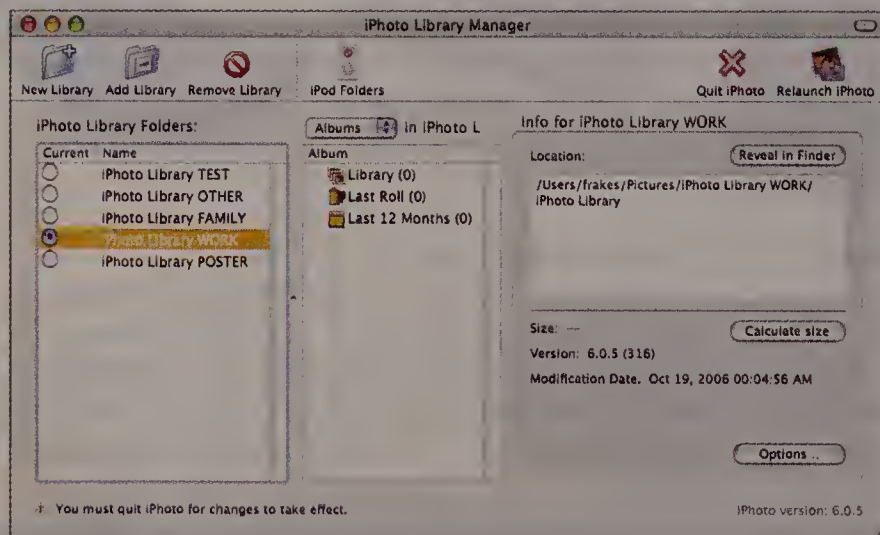


Photo Traffic Cop With iPhoto Library Manager, you can take control of your iPhoto libraries.

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COLOR LASER PRINTERS

★★★★½ C6100dn
(\$1,102), from Oki Data
(www.okidata.com):

The Oki C6100dn produces great-looking prints, and it has built-in duplexing, easy network connectivity, and quick printing speeds (macworld.com/1670).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★ Magicolor 2430 DL (\$499), from Konica Minolta (www.konicaminolta.com):

At less than half the price of the Oki C6100dn, the Magicolor 2430 DL is network-ready and provides accurate color prints (macworld.com/0635).

INK-JET PHOTO PRINTERS

★★★★½ Stylus Photo R340
(\$200), from Epson
(www.epson.com):

The Epson Stylus Photo R340 prints the best color photos in its class, and it reproduces shadow detail extremely well. Its black-and-white prints are subpar, though (macworld.com/0948).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★½ Pixma iP6600D (\$200), from Canon
(www.canon.com):

The Pixma iP6600D prints great-looking photos with or without your Mac (macworld.com/0950).

FIREWIRE DRIVES

DESKTOP DRIVES

★★★★ G-Drive Q
500GB (\$559), from
G-Technology (www.g-technology.com):

The G-Drive Q SATA hard drive has nearly every type of connection you could want. The Q stands for *quad*—referring to the four different types of data connectors on the drive. You'll find two FireWire 800 ports along with a FireWire 400, a USB 2.0, and a high-speed eSATA port. It operates without a fan, so the G-Drive Q is very quiet—you hear only the occasional spin of the drive (macworld.com/1622).



ALSO RECOMMENDED:

★★★★½ d2 Extreme (\$259), from
LaCie (www.lacie.com):

With numerous connection options, a low price per gigabyte, and great performance, the LaCie d2 Extreme is a great value (macworld.com/1013).



PORTABLE DRIVE




★★★★ Rocbit 2B
(\$230), from Roc-
secure (www.rocsecure.com):

The Rocbit 2B, which has 40-bit encryption, is priced a bit higher than similar portable drives that lack encryption, but it's well worth the premium if security is a concern. In our tests, the Rocbit 2B was 6 to 31 percent faster than three comparable drives from other vendors (macworld.com/1443).





MACS

DESKTOP

Product	Processor	Display	Rating	More Information	Best Price ^A	Speedmark 4.5 Score ^B
	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	17 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/1727	\$994	202
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	17 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1728	\$1,194	232
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	20 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1729	\$1,494	245
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16GHz	24 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/1730	\$1,969	245
	Intel Core Duo/1.66GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1731	\$594	152
	Intel Core Duo/1.83GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1732	\$774	165
	Intel Xeon/ two dual-core 2.66GHz	not included	★★★★	macworld.com/1646	\$2,321	299

PORTABLE

	Intel Core 2 Duo/1.83GHz	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2387	\$1,099	168
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2388	\$1,299	178
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2GHz (black)	13 inches	★★★★½	macworld.com/2389	\$1,499	173
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.16 GHz	15 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/2340	\$1,899	209
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz	15 inches	★★★★	macworld.com/2341	\$2,494	226
	Intel Core 2 Duo/2.33GHz	17 inches	not yet rated	macworld.com/2342	\$2,794	not yet tested

^AFrom a PriceGrabber survey of retailers as of November 14, 2006. ^BSpeedmark 4.5 is Macworld Lab's standard test tool for benchmarking systems running Mac OS X 10.4 (Tiger). For information on Speedmark testing, go to www.macworld.com/speedmark.

MINIDV CAMCORDER

★★★★ PV-GS500
(\$1,000), from Panasonic
(www.panasonic.com):

The PV-GS500 is a fine piece of equipment: It offers great control, excellent video quality, and broad operational flexibility. Although it's at the high end of the feature scale, it's moderately priced for what it offers, and it takes great-looking video and stills (macworld.com/1673).



FLATBED SCANNER

★★★★½ **CanoScan 9950F** (\$399), from Canon (www.canon.com):

The CanoScan 9950F offers improved scan quality and more-intuitive software controls. This model tops its predecessor, the 9900F, in almost every way—resolution, color accuracy, transparency, scan quality, and software interface (macworld.com/0188).

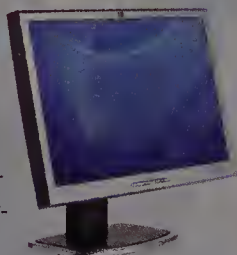


LCD MONITORS

23-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **L2335** (\$1,599), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

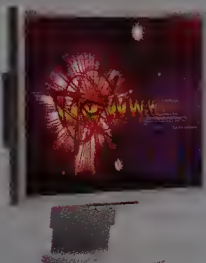
Along with its outstanding value, analog and digital connectors, ability to pivot to portrait mode, and adjustable height, the L2335 provides excellent video-in options and very good color fidelity and viewing angle (macworld.com/0278).



20-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★½ **MultiSync LCD2070NX** (\$799), from NEC (www.necdisplay.com):

The MultiSync LCD2070NX is great for people who want a moderately priced 20-inch monitor that can display bright, accurate colors. It sports digital and analog inputs, an integrated USB 2.0 hub, and a thin bezel (macworld.com/0636).



17-INCH DISPLAY

★★★★ **UltraSharp 1707FP** (\$279), from Dell (www.dell.com):

Budget-conscious display shoppers won't be disappointed by this highly flexible 17-inch monitor that has a built-in USB hub. Its display of text is very good, and its color is pleasing. It has an impressive range of motion: it pivots, tilts, and swivels. The only problem is a limited viewing angle (macworld.com/1259).



DIGITAL CAMERAS

8-MEGAPIXEL DIGITAL SLR

★★★★½ **EOS Digital Rebel XT** (\$899; with lens, \$999), from Canon (www.canon.com):

Canon defined this market with the original Digital Rebel, and the company keeps its lead with the EOS Digital Rebel XT. The Rebel XT is a very small camera—much smaller than the original Rebel. The XT's feature set, image quality, and price, combined with the vast assortment of available Canon mount lenses, make it the best choice in the sub-\$1,000 digital-SLR market (macworld.com/0535).



ADVANCED DIGITAL CAMERA

★★★★ **Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ30K** (\$700), from Panasonic (www.panasonic.com):

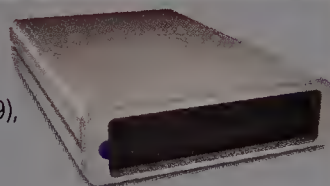
The Panasonic Lumix DMC-FZ30K is a sizable beast: at 1.5 pounds and just over five inches long, it feels more like an SLR than an all-in-one camera. The chunky body may be a blessing for people with large hands, who often find smaller cameras uncomfortable. The DMC-FZ30K's SLR styling is well suited to photographers eager for manual controls. The camera's images look great when taken in good light, but noise can quickly become a problem at higher ISOs (macworld.com/1157).



DUAL-LAYER DVD BURNER

★★★★½ **d2 DVD±RW with LightScribe** (\$189), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):

Whether you're looking to add DVD-burning capability to your system, looking for an easier way to copy optical discs, or just want the latest and fastest drives for burning DVDs—even dual-layer DVDs—the LaCie d2 can quickly and easily handle all of that and more (macworld.com/2263).



IN THE LAB

Hardware Products We Tested This Month

DESKTOP FIREWIRE HARD DRIVE

★★★★½ **Pushbutton Backup External Hard Drive 750GB** (\$460), from Seagate (www.seagate.com):

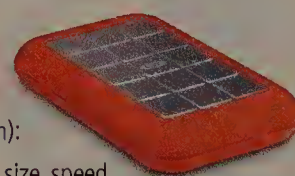
For people who suffer from a bloated music or video library, this drive offers relief: it provides a hefty amount of storage in a small desktop package. However, its poky performance will have you waiting a bit longer for your backups to be completed (macworld.com/2288).



PORTABLE HARD DRIVE

★★★★ **Rugged All-Terrain Hard Drive 100GB** (\$360), from LaCie (www.lacie.com):

This drive is all about size, speed, and, of course, style. Its bright orange exterior makes it a standout, and its performance numbers are among the fastest we've seen for 100GB portable drives. But remember that you'll pay a premium for its small size and the convenience of having three different ports (macworld.com/2290).



PORTABLE HARD DRIVE

★★★★ **miniXpress 825 160GB** (\$328), from Trans International (www.transintl.com):

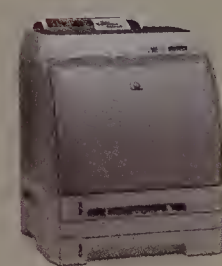
If you're looking for a sleek and speedy drive for toting your files from home to office, the miniXpress 825 is a good choice and is an excellent value—provided that you overlook its lack of USB bus-power operation and its outlet-gobbling wall-mounted power supply. Its favorable cost-per-gigabyte ratio might be attributed in part to the absence of backup software, which ships with most other drives we've tested. But we don't consider this a serious drawback (macworld.com/2289).



COLOR LASER PRINTER

★★★★ **LaserJet 2605dtn** (\$700), from Hewlett-Packard (www.hp.com):

The 2605dtn has features not generally found in budget printers, including PostScript 3 emulation, a second 250-sheet paper tray, Ethernet connectivity, built-in automatic duplexing capabilities, and a built-in memory-card reader. It may not be the fastest color laser printer we've tested, but its very good print quality and extra features make it quite a bargain (macworld.com/2291).



Top Products are those we've recently reviewed in a comparison of like products. As new products become available, we will update the list. For longer reviews of these products and for other product recommendations, go to macworld.com/reviews. All prices are as rated. For the best current prices, go to macworld.pricegrabber.com. All products were available as of November 2, 2006.

WHAT'S NEXT





We don't usually talk about the future in *Macworld*. Our main concern is about buying and using Mac stuff in the here and now. Given Apple's penchant for secrecy, speculating on the company's future releases is best left to the breathless ether of the blogosphere.

But that doesn't mean you, as a sober, responsible Mac buyer, shouldn't *think* about the future. There's the perennial question of "Should I buy now or should I wait?" There's the tricky business of weighing what you have now against what you'll need next year.

That's why we assembled this guide. We asked *Macworld*'s editors, contributors, and readers to consider the technologies, products, and services that are going to have the biggest real-world impact on Mac buyers in 2007. They came up with the following list of ten trends. Your life may not be changed by all of them. But chances are that at least a couple will change the way you use and buy Mac products in the next 12 months.



10 Tech Trends That Will Shape What You Buy This Year

ILLUSTRATIONS BY OLIVER WOLFSON



SOFTWARE:

MULTICORE COMPUTING

By Jason Snell

➔ Once upon a time, chip makers made computer chips faster every year by increasing their processing speeds. But lately, the microprocessor industry has run into some fundamental limits to those speeds. So chip makers have had to switch directions and look elsewhere for better performance. The latest solution: Design chips with multiple processor cores. The result: Today's big-brained chips that can do more processing than ever before—if the software is modified to take advantage of their design.

Beyond Clock Speed

Only a year ago, the processors that ran most Macs had a single *core*, the brain that does most of the computing. Only the CPUs in high-end Power Mac systems intended for the power-hungriest professionals sported more than one core. But today, every Mac model sold contains at least two processor cores—essentially, two independent brains jammed together on a single chip. Mac Pros contain *two* dual-core chips, for a total of four processor cores. And Intel recently announced a chip with *four* processor cores.

Traditional single-core computers worked straightforwardly. All the work your Mac needed to do was put in the pipeline, and the Mac's processor would work on each item in turn, as fast as it could. The faster the chip, the faster the computer could work.

But when chip speeds started stalling, chip makers such as IBM, Intel, and AMD turned to a different speed-boosting trick: adding processor cores.

Is Your Software Savvy?

By default, Mac OS X assigns every task it's given to the processing core with the most power to spare. Also by default, every program you run is a single, self-contained task. So if you had a (purely hypothetical) 16-core Mac and were run-

ning 16 programs, each would essentially have one core all to itself.

But what if you had one program that required huge amounts of processing power? If OS X saw it as a single task, all the operating system would do is assign it to one core—so the program would be able to use only one-sixteenth of the Mac's total processing power.

That's unacceptable, of course. So most high-end programs (including Adobe Photoshop and Apple's Final Cut Pro) have been written to split the work they do into smaller tasks, each of which can be farmed out to a different processor core.

Now that multicore Macs are nearly ubiquitous, programmers of all kinds of applications will need to modify their software to support multiple cores, breaking up functions into small sets of tasks that can be more easily farmed out to the next available processor core.

In addition, software that's already been modified to work with multicore systems will need to become more efficient. In our tests of the first Intel iMacs (macworld.com/1181), we found that some tasks, such as the 3-D Render, iTunes MP3 Encode, and iPhoto Import, used both cores efficiently. Other tests revealed that certain iMovie filters were not at all efficient. Photoshop itself was scattered: for some tasks, it was extremely well optimized for mul-

tiples cores; for others, it wasn't remotely multicore-savvy.

In any event, the future of computer performance no longer seems to be solely in the hands of the chip makers. Power has shifted, at least somewhat, to the software developers. Chip makers have found a way to keep increasing the amount of power inside a computer's chassis, but programmers will have to find ways to take advantage of it.

Buying Advice

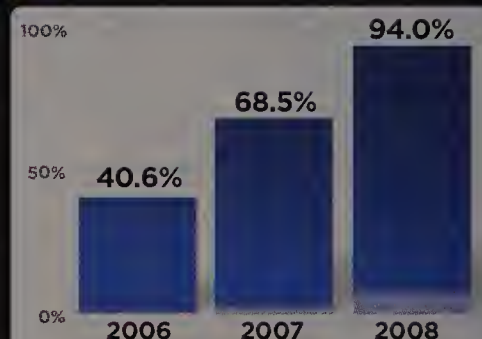
What's a Mac user to do? In one sense, there isn't much you *can* do. The only kind of new Mac you can buy today is one with multiple processor cores. But in another, you should make your voice heard. Ask the companies that make your most-important software programs if their apps are taking full advantage of your multicore Mac. You can even download Apple's CHUD tools (macworld.com/2292) and test your own Mac with one processor core disabled to see if your favorite programs are really taking advantage of all that Intel processing power you paid for. In the meantime, Intel and Apple will continue to release chips and computers with an increasing number of processor cores. So when Intel releases that four-core chip, and when Apple puts two of them into a Mac Pro (the Octopus?), let's just hope that we'll have plenty of Mac software that can tap into their power.

JASON SNELL is Macworld's editorial director.

MULTICORE GOES MAINSTREAM

In 2006, 40 percent of all CPUs shipped were multicore. By 2008, that market share should double.

■ Dual Core ■ Quad Core



Worldwide multicore microprocessor shipments, as a percentage of all multiprocessors shipped

SOURCE: IDC, 2006

SOFTWARE:

THE MULTIPLE-OS MAC

By John Rizzo

and user settings already installed and configured. Using it, you could, for example, download an appliance that would let you put a ready-to-run Oracle software installation on your Mac. What might have once taken two days of configuration hassles will become a small matter of dragging and dropping a file.

Buying Advice

Although Apple will bundle Boot Camp with Leopard, that won't give OS X users anything they can't get now with a simple download. And, as far as we know now, Boot Camp still won't be able to run multiple operating systems at the same time. For a truly multi-OS Mac, the best Mac option for now remains Parallels Desktop. But keep an eye out for VMware for Mac—it could change the game.

JOHN RIZZO is the publisher of MacWindows.com.

➔ At some point in the not-too-distant future, most Macs—especially those in business and educational environments—will be running multiple operating systems, including Windows, Linux, and Mac OS X. The question is, will the multiple-OS tools built into OS X be enough for you?

The Virtues of Virtualization

Virtual machine technology, or *virtualization*, enables the Mac to run any application, regardless of the operating system for which that app was written. It performs this trick by running one or more operating systems, each in its own “virtual machine.”

For most Mac users, *virtualization* has meant “running Windows software on a Mac.” Back in the 1980s, SoftPC, from Insignia Solutions, enabled Mac users to run DOS and Windows on 680X0 Macs, by emulating an Intel processor. Later, Virtual PC took over and allowed users to run multiple instances of Windows at the same time on one Mac.

Fast-forward to 2006, when Apple introduced its Intel-powered Macs. Because there was a real Intel processor inside these Macs, the need to emulate this kind of processor was gone. As a result, guest operating systems could run dramatically faster on a Mac. Apple took advantage of this by releasing a beta version of its Boot Camp software, which lets you install a copy of Windows on your Mac and then choose which OS—Windows or OS X—you want to use at startup.

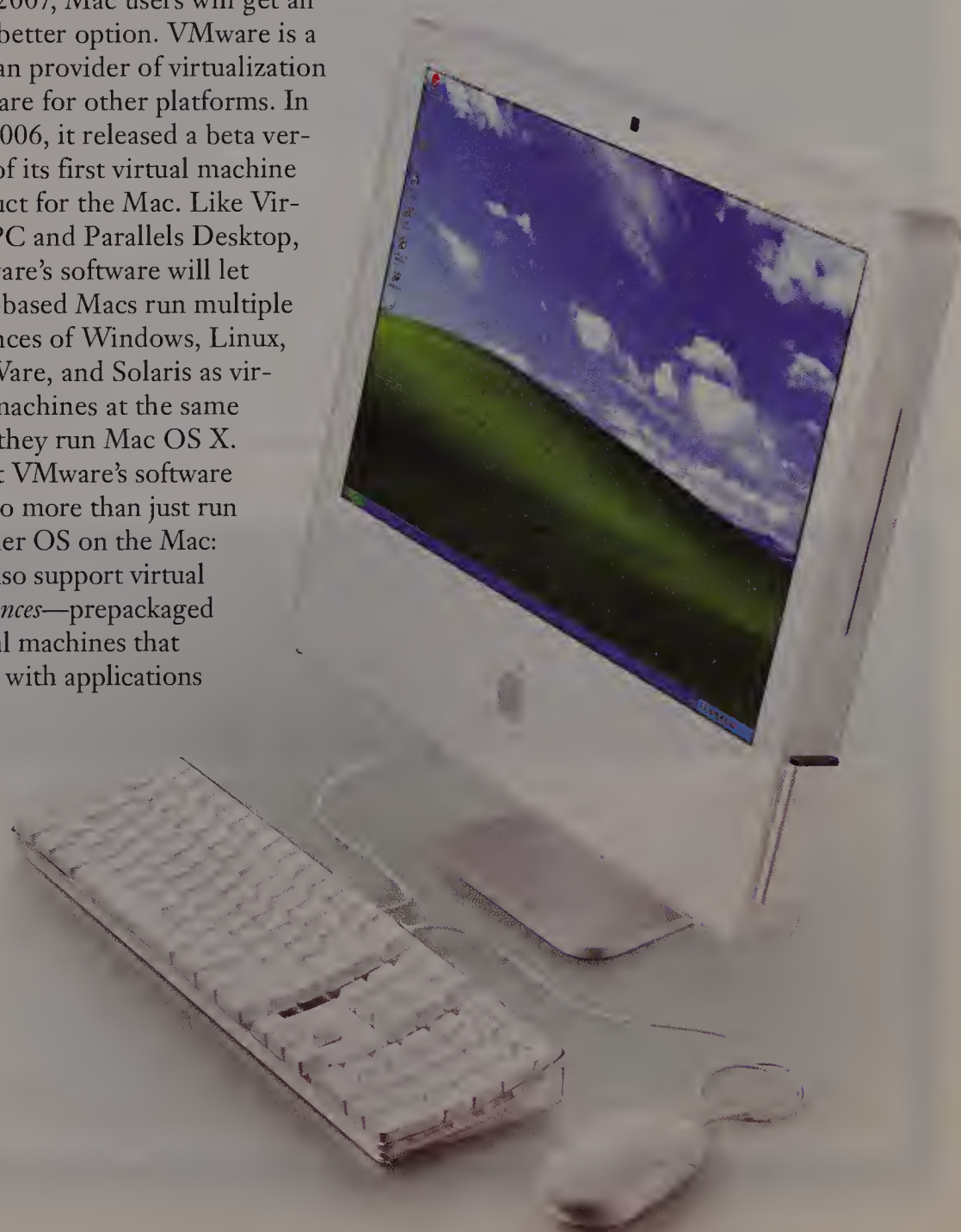
The obvious flaw in Boot Camp's design is that it's not, in fact, running multiple operating systems: it lets you run only one at a time. You have to reboot your Mac if you want to use Windows. If you're a gamer, that's probably fine. But if you're a businessperson who wants to pop into a Windows app for a second and then pop back out to OS X, or if you want to copy and paste data from a Windows app into OS X, Boot Camp is not the solution for you.

Parallels Desktop, which also came out in 2006, seems like the better answer. Unlike Boot Camp, it lets you run Win-

dows apps in a window within OS X; you can then switch between the two operating systems quickly and easily. Like Virtual PC, Parallels Desktop lets you run multiple operating systems at the same time, so if you need to run, say, Linux as well as Windows while you're running OS X, you can.

In 2007, Mac users will get an even better option. VMware is a veteran provider of virtualization software for other platforms. In late 2006, it released a beta version of its first virtual machine product for the Mac. Like Virtual PC and Parallels Desktop, VMware's software will let Intel-based Macs run multiple instances of Windows, Linux, NetWare, and Solaris as virtual machines at the same time they run Mac OS X.

But VMware's software will do more than just run another OS on the Mac: it'll also support virtual *appliances*—prepackaged virtual machines that come with applications



3 STORAGE: FLASH MEMORY

By Dan Miller

→ Solid-state, flash-based storage—the kind used in the iPod nano and shuffle—is coming to the Mac. The result could be better battery life, quicker booting, and entirely new kinds of systems.

Solid-State Storage

Flash memory stores data in solid-state transistors rather than on the magnetic platters of a hard drive. Unlike your Mac's RAM, flash memory (also called NAND memory) is *nonvolatile*, meaning that its contents don't disappear when you turn off the power.

As a storage medium, flash memory has some advantages over standard hard drives. First, because flash memory has no moving parts, it's sturdier and it consumes less power. Second, in many circumstances, flash memory delivers data faster.

Historically, flash memory's major disadvantage has been price: in 2002, it cost about \$260 per gigabyte, compared with \$150 per gigabyte for a hard drive. But prices for both have dropped drastically since then (see "Flash Price Drops").



For all of these reasons, computer and storage vendors have been working on ways to incorporate flash memory into their products. Right now, it looks as though the fruits of their labor will appear in two forms.

Samsung and Seagate, among others, plan to release *hybrid* hard drives in early 2007. These drives will supplement the usual magnetic platters with a small bit of built-in flash memory. You can expect most other hard-drive vendors to follow suit.

Intel is developing an alternative scheme, code-named Robson. The chip giant plans to incorporate flash memory into the chip sets it sells to computer makers; thus, the memory would be built into the motherboard rather than the hard drive.

In either case, flash memory could help your system in a couple of ways. In one scenario, bits of the operating system would be stored in flash memory; those bits could load more quickly from flash memory than they could from a hard drive. The result would be faster bootup times.

In another scenario, your computer would store application code and program data in flash memory. You'd save power, because the hard drive's platters wouldn't have to spin quite as much. And the system could run incrementally faster, because flash memory delivers data faster than a hard drive.

It's Up to the OS

But to realize the advantages of flash memory, the operating system has to know it's there and know what to do with it. Apple, as usual, is silent on the subject. But the chances look good that the Mac will get flash storage in 2007.

For one thing, back in 2005, Apple signed long-term sourcing agreements for NAND memory with several of the world's leading suppliers. Most of that memory is going into iPod nanos and shuffles, but some could be redirected to hard-drive makers. Apple could use hybrid drives from any vendor that adopts the technology. Less likely, Apple could adopt Intel's Robson chip sets. And there's no reason Apple couldn't add flash-memory support to OS X.

One other intriguing possibility is that Apple could build a Mac—most likely a laptop—that uses flash storage alone. Combine flash storage with a relatively cool Intel chip, and you can build a radically thin, power-savvy laptop. And that's just the beginning of all the speculation. Tablet Mac? Handheld Mac? Flash memory makes it all imaginable.

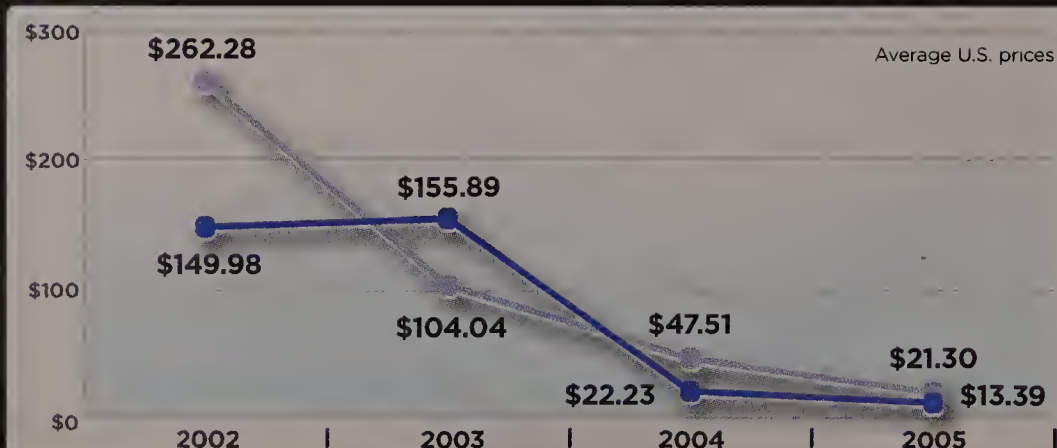
Buying Advice

Until OS X adds support for flash storage, there's no reason to contemplate it. If and when that support arrives, and if you want to take advantage of it, you probably won't have much choice in the matter. Apple will offer hybrid drives in its Macs (or, maybe, Macs with Robson chip sets). It's also possible that you'll be able to add hybrid drives as upgrades.

FLASH PRICE DROPS

Prices for traditional magnetic hard drives and for flash memory have dropped since 2002. But flash prices have dropped more dramatically, making it economically viable as a Mac component.

— 1-Inch Hard Drive (price per GB) — NAND Flash Memory (1GB)



SOURCE: IDC, 2006

DAN MILLER is Macworld's executive editor.

4 ONLINE: THE NET AS COMPUTER

By Lisa Schmeiser



great place to store the stuff you get done.”

One of the keys to this hybridized world of online and local apps is data synchronization. Right now, it's one area in which Apple could dramatically improve.

➔ Browser-based services—such as Google's Gmail and Yahoo's Flickr—are becoming increasingly sophisticated and usable alternatives to the applications and data storage that now reside on your Mac. Because they're online, your apps and data are always available from anywhere, no matter what device you use to access them. But will they replace the programs on your Mac? Not likely.

Office 2.0

When Yahoo began offering e-mail accounts ten years ago, it became one of the first occupants of what's becoming known as Office 2.0. Since then, dozens of other Web-based apps and data-storage services have moved in. (For a sampling of what's available, see “The Online Software Suite”; for a full list, see macworld.com/2283).

However, these online applications aren't without their drawbacks. For starters, they demand a speedy, reliable Net connection. If the connection is slow or intermittent, the application could time out. And even if you have a blazing-fast Net connection, these apps can feel slow. “The interfaces of Web-based apps are going to be slower than the desktop applications you're used to,” admits 37 Signals' Jason Fried. Also, they require a certain leap of faith. You'll need to be concerned about the security of your data and the stability of your vendors. “You must trust that they will protect your data and remain in business long enough to serve your needs,” says Ismael Chang Ghalimi, CEO of Intaglio and founder of the Office 2.0 conference.

For these and other reasons, it's likely that online apps will supplement your Mac's apps rather than render them moot. Ghalimi says that no matter how good online apps get, users will still likely want to synchronize data between them and their desktops (or, for mobile users, between the online apps and their smart phones and laptops).

Fried agrees: “I think there will be some applications that work better online and some that work better on a desktop. It's just a matter of what works best for you.” He cites Apple's iTunes as an example of

how people may eventually move between online and offline apps: the application pulls data from the Web, yet also lets users work with assets stored on a local drive. “The desktop is still a great place to get work done,” he says. “The Internet is a

Buying Advice

Don't go tossing Apple's iLife or Microsoft Office. But if you haven't already done so, you should certainly try out browser-based services, such as the ones we list in “The Online Software Suite” (and on macworld.com/2283), to see whether they can complement the apps you have on your Mac.

LISA SCHMEISER is a freelance writer in Alameda, California. She's been writing about the Mac since 1999.

THE ONLINE SOFTWARE SUITE

There are dozens of Office 2.0 apps available. Here are some you should check out; for a full listing, go to macworld.com/2283.

APPLICATION TYPE

OFFICE 2.0 APPLICATIONS

Calendars

30 Boxes, www.30boxes.com
Google Calendar (beta), calendar.google.com
HipCal, www.hipcal.com

Desktop Publishers

gOffice, www.goffice.com

Drawing Programs

LithaPaint, www.litha-paint.com

E-mail Clients

Gmail, www.gmail.com
Hotmail, www.hotmail.com
Mailroom, www.mailroom.com
Yahoo Mail, mail.yahoo.com

File Managers

Backback, www.37signals.com
Dropload, www.dropload.com
DropSend, www.dropsend.com
Omnidrive, www.omnidrive.com
XmailHardDrive, www.xmailharddrive.com
YouSendIt, www.yousendit.com

Instant-Messaging Clients

Campfire, www.37signals.com
Gabbly, www.gabbly.com

Music Players

AjaxTunes, www.ajax13.com
Jinzora, www.jinzora.com

Office Suites

Joyent Connector, www.joyent.com
Zoho Office Suite, www.zoho.com

Outliners

Gliffy (beta), www.gliffy.com
Mayomi, www.mayomi.com

Photo Managers

Flickr, www.flickr.com
Phixr, www.phixr.com
PXN8, www.pxn8.com

Spreadsheets

ajaxXLS, www.ajax13.com
Google Spreadsheets (beta), spreadsheet.google.com
gOffice Spreadsheets, www.goffice.com

Word Processors

AjaxWrite, www.ajax13.com
Google Docs (beta), docs.google.com

HOME ENTERTAINMENT:

5 THE MAC MEDIA CENTER

By Michael Gowan

➔ For years now, digital entertainment fans have been dreaming of a Digital Media Center—a unified collection of devices that would enable them to enjoy all their Mac-based music, videos, photos, and games from any room of the house, no matter where that media is stored. Ever since articulating its digital hub vision back in 2001, Apple has slowly been assembling the pieces of that media center. The iTV—when it's released sometime in early 2007 (and which won't actually be called iTV when it finally arrives)—will wirelessly connect your home entertainment hardware to your Mac, and it could be the final piece in that puzzle.

Evolutionary Development

The first steps toward the Mac media center came in 2001, with the introduction of the iPod and iTunes. Those two products established the link between *Apple* and *entertainment* and started the trend of loading hard drives with music and (later) TV shows and movies. Other high points on the timeline include the following: in July 2004, Apple shipped the AirPort Express with AirTunes, which let you wirelessly stream music from your Mac to your stereo; a year later, Apple introduced its second-generation iMac G5, with its Front Row software and the Apple Remote; and in early 2006, it issued the second-generation Mac mini, with digital audio and DVI output, Front Row, an Apple Remote, and a built-in AirPort connection that let it stream media from your Mac.

But that Mac mini was an incomplete solution. Out of the box, it could play DVD video, TV shows and movies purchased through iTunes, and user-created home movies. But it still lacked a TV tuner and digital video recorder (DVR) for capturing broadcast television. In other words, as Roger L. Kay, president of Endpoint Technologies Associates, puts it, "If Apple doesn't offer a show you want, you're out of luck." The other key feature users want in a media center is an extender—a device that'll let them send content from a hub (the Mac in the

den, say, or a dedicated media server) to multiple screens around the house.

Will the iTV fill those holes? It's expected that the iTV will access audio, video, and pictures over a wireless network, but many questions remain. Will it have a TV tuner and DVR functions? What about a CableCard slot that would allow you to get rid of your cable set-top box? And what about high definition video? Whereas many of today's home entertainment centers have made the leap to HD, the video downloads now available through iTunes aren't even DVD quality. How many of us would want to watch a low-resolution movie on our HD TVs?

But sending high-quality video over the Net and through the air poses a big problem: If it takes half the night to download the movies currently available on iTunes, imagine how long it would take for a DVD-quality feature. And today's 802.11g wireless standard, with a top theoretical speed of 54 Mbps and a realistic rate of 11 Mbps, is barely

up to the job of sending one HD stream at a time. So what happens when you're trying to send multiple video streams to multiple screens?

The answer to that last conundrum could be the forthcoming 802.11n standard, which could be ten times faster than 802.11g. Apple will no doubt release 802.11n hardware in 2007, but will the first iteration of iTV include the new standard? Probably not (see "Networking: AirPort Takes Off," on page 62).

The question about whether iTV will have a TV tuner may not matter in the long run. According to

analysts, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV)—television transmitted digitally over the same broadband connection that connects you to iTunes—may either replace broadcast television or at least be a viable alternative to it within five years. Then you wouldn't need a TV tuner at all. For that matter, Endpoint's Kay suggests that on-demand services could replace the broadcast model altogether. Why should stations continuously clog bandwidth with shows no one may be watching? Instead, users could simply download the programs they want.

Buying Advice

If you plan to watch your media on your computer, you have all the pieces available to create a media center: with a few third-party add-ons, a Mac mini (or an iMac, if the screen is big enough for you) can handle music, video, photos, and more with aplomb. (For more on turning a Mac into a multimedia center, check out macworld.com/2284 and macworld.com/2285.) But if you want to extend your media experience to many screens throughout your home, you'll want to wait for your iTV.

MICHAEL GOWAN is a freelance writer in Oakland, California.



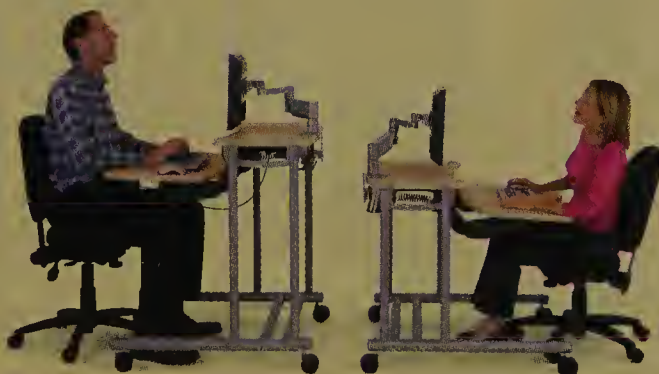


you could if you wanted to

The long and short of it? Everyone comes in different shapes and sizes. But that doesn't mean we can't work and play well together. Anthro's Fit System® Adjusta demonstrates this point perfectly. The same desk can fit someone



who is 6' 4" just as easily as someone 5' 3". So for furniture that lets you do things you never thought possible, contact our friendly and knowledgeable folks at **800.325.3841** or **anthro.com/mac**. We'll help configure something just for you!



6 DIGITAL CAMERAS: AFFORDABLE SLRS

By Kelly Turner

➔ Historically the exclusive turf of professionals and serious hobbyists, digital SLRs are fast becoming viable options for casual photographers who want to get deeper into digital photography. At the same time, point-and-shoot cameras are getting smarter, making it easier for amateurs to get better pictures without a lot of effort.

SLR Price Drop

A few years ago, an entry-level digital SLR with a lens cost around \$1,000—beyond the budget of most consumers. Today, that price has dropped dramatically. Nikon (www.nikonusa.com) recently released the D40, a \$600 compact digital SLR with a lens. Analyst Ross Rubin, of NPD believes that we'll see a \$500 SLR within the next year.

The lower prices have opened up the digital SLR market. According to NPD, sales of digital SLRs were up 48 percent from January to August of 2006, compared with the same period the previous year. Also in that same time period, sales of compact digital cameras were up 21 percent.

To make SLRs more attractive to buyers, camera manufacturers are adding features typically found in point-and-shoot cameras—including expanded help screens and program modes for portraits, sports shots, and night shots—to their entry-level SLRs. Nikon's D50, for example, offers a Child mode for photographing children. Olympus, Panasonic, and Leica offer SLRs that show a live preview of your scene.

The End of the Megapixel Race

Meanwhile, among point-and-shoots, the megapixel race is still going strong. But the benefit of having all those pixels is increasingly questionable.

"Unless you spend a lot of time cropping your photos and making poster-size prints, there's really no reason to have a 10-megapixel camera," says Ben Long, author of *Complete Digital Photography* (2004; Charles River Media) and a frequent *Macworld* contributor. The images such cameras capture take up

gobs of hard-drive space, are harder to print, and require more processing power to edit. Worse, the 10-megapixel sensors found in many current compact cameras produce images that are noisier than those produced by their lower-megapixel counterparts.

That's why the race may be nearing an end. "Consumers are starting to realize that having more pixels isn't the most important criterion [in buying a camera]," Rubin says. Instead of just continually upping pixel counts, manufacturers are making their cameras smarter.

For example, Canon and Nikon both now offer in-camera software that can detect faces in a scene and optimize the focus and exposure appropriately. Nikon and Hewlett-Packard offer camera modes that can automatically detect and eliminate red-eye. And almost every

camera manufacturer now offers compact cameras with image stabilization to reduce the incidence of blurred photos. Such technologies let you correct—or even avoid—common image problems without resorting to an image editor.

Buying Advice

The upshot: If you're feeling limited by your compact point-and-shoot camera, you should soon be able to buy an entry-level digital SLR for not much more than you'd pay for an advanced point-and-shoot. These cameras offer the simplicity of automatic modes while giving you access to advanced options such as Raw support and high-quality lenses. Some of the newest models even have a surprisingly compact design.

If you don't care about editing images and just want something that can fit in your pocket or purse, look for a point-and-shoot camera that'll correct images for you and has a large LCD screen that'll let you see your images well enough to edit them. At the moment, you'll find in-camera image editing on the newest (and more-expensive) point-and-shoots. You may need to wait for camera manufacturers to refresh their camera lines (which typically happens in late spring) for such features to appear in more-affordable models. Whatever you do, don't spend your money on an expensive 10-megapixel camera unless you frequently make large prints.

KELLY TURNER is *Macworld's* senior features editor.

SLRS: SHIPMENTS UP, PRICES DOWN

Shipments of digital SLRs are projected to double from 2005 to 2010; at the same time, the average price of a camera is expected to fall by almost half.





Watch iTunes Movies on your TV Tonight with HomeDock Deluxe



1

Purchase Movies & Videos from the iTunes store



2

Download them to your Video iPod



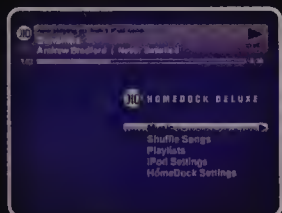
3

Dock to HomeDock Deluxe and let Movie Night begin

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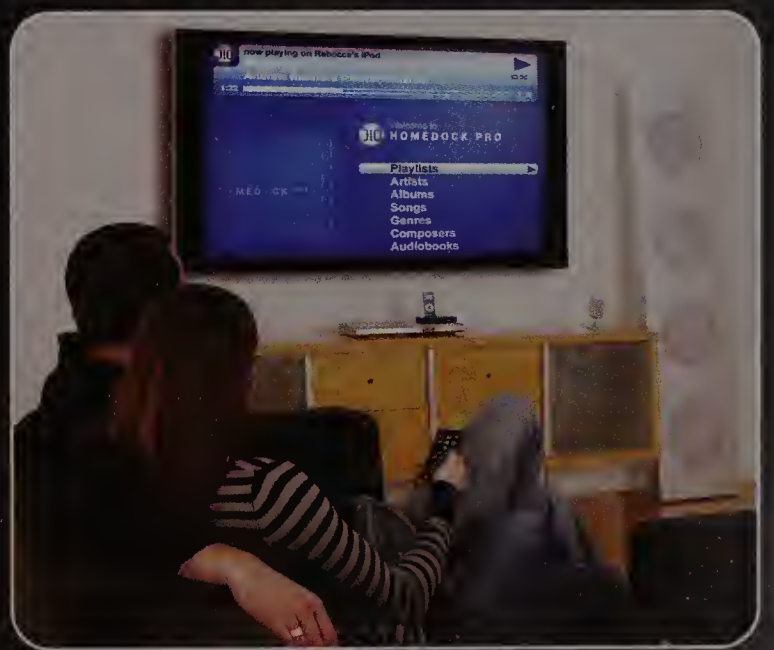
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7 CAMCORDERS: HERE COMES HIGH DEFINITION

By Jonathan Seff

➔ Camcorders that can shoot high definition (HD) video are coming down in price and will continue to over the next 12 to 18 months, putting them within the reach of consumers. Software tools for editing HD video are becoming more common. The big question, though, is how do you burn that video to DVD?

What's Happening?

Steve Jobs famously proclaimed 2005 as the "Year of HD." Turns out he was off by a year or two. Although high definition television sets are becoming pretty common, HD camcorders are still slightly exotic, thanks to their comparatively high prices. But that's beginning to change. With HDV camcorders such as Canon's \$1,299 HV10 (www.usa.canon.com) and Sony's \$1,500 HDR-HC3 HDV (www.sonystyle.com) now hitting the market,

cost is becoming less of an issue. The other good news is that you can now edit HD video with all three of Apple's digital-video-editing apps—iMovie, Final Cut Express, and Final Cut Pro.

But there's still the problem of displaying your finished project. You can transfer your edited project back to tape and connect your camcorder directly to an HD TV. Or you can buy an expensive (\$1,000) Blu-ray or HD DVD burner and the expensive media that goes with

it, and hope your intended audience has one of the \$500-plus set-top boxes that'll play your DVD (see "Optical Drives: Blu-ray versus HD DVD" on this page). But there's some consolation: Apple's DVD-burning products (iDVD and DVD Studio Pro) will convert HD video to SD (standard definition) video for burning to standard DVDs, so your HD video won't be entirely useless—it'll just be much lower in resolution.

Buying Advice

Is now the time to plop down money for an HD camcorder? That depends on how cutting-edge you are. If you're an early adopter or an aspiring filmmaker, it's a fine time to buy, given the lower prices out there. You probably already have the software for editing HD movies. Just remember that if you want to share your HD masterpiece on disc, you're going to have to wait at least a couple of months for HD-ready DVD burners to arrive.

8 OPTICAL DRIVES: BLU-RAY VERSUS HD DVD

By Jonathan Seff

➔ In 2006, we saw a standards war start between two new high-density DVD formats: Blu-ray and HD DVD. This year, one of them should be crowned the winner. But it's still too early to tell which one is best for Mac users.

End of an Era

The DVD standard has reached an impasse, in the form of high definition (HD) video. HD video demands more capacity than standard DVDs can deliver. That's where the Blu-ray and HD DVD disc formats come in. Both promise to let you play HD-quality movies on your HD TV and back up huge amounts of data or burn your own HD videos.

The two formats have much in common. Both rely on drives with blue-violet lasers (which have shorter wavelengths than the red lasers found in regular DVD drives). Those lasers allow the new discs to hold more information in the same space. Blu-ray DVDs pack 25GB on a single-layer disc and 50GB on a dual-layer; HD DVDs can store 15GB and 30GB,

respectively; standard DVDs holds 4.7GB and 8.5GB, respectively. So a 50GB Blu-ray disc can hold 9 hours of HD video (23 hours of SD video); a 30GB HD DVD disc can hold 8 hours of HD video. Both formats support resolutions up to 1,080p (1,920 by 1,080 pixels) compared with 720 by 480 pixels for standard DVDs. Netflix and other DVD rental services offer discs in both formats.

Fight! Fight! Fight!

Despite these similarities, the two standards are incompatible: Blu-ray drives can't read HD DVD discs and vice versa. Which one will win the format war?

Apple, Dell, Hewlett-Packard, Sony, Samsung, and Panasonic all support

Blu-ray; HD DVD supporters include NEC, Toshiba, and Sanyo. HD DVD was the first to market and is currently less expensive, and more films are available in that format—at least for now. But

Sony's release of the PlayStation 3 (PS3) with a Blu-ray optical drive could be what analyst Ross Rubin of NPD calls "an effective Trojan horse for Blu-ray."

Which way will Apple go? It's currently in the Blu-ray camp, but no computer vendor will decide the contest.

Consumers will, once they decide which format they want for their content and pick burners that support it; computer companies will follow that lead.

Buying Advice

Don't expect a clear winner to emerge for the next year or two. For renting and playing movies, there are more available on HD DVD than on Blu-ray right now. For burning your own movies and data, Blu-ray offers higher capacity. Expect hybrid players—those that support both formats—within the next year, though they'll likely be too expensive for mainstream buyers.



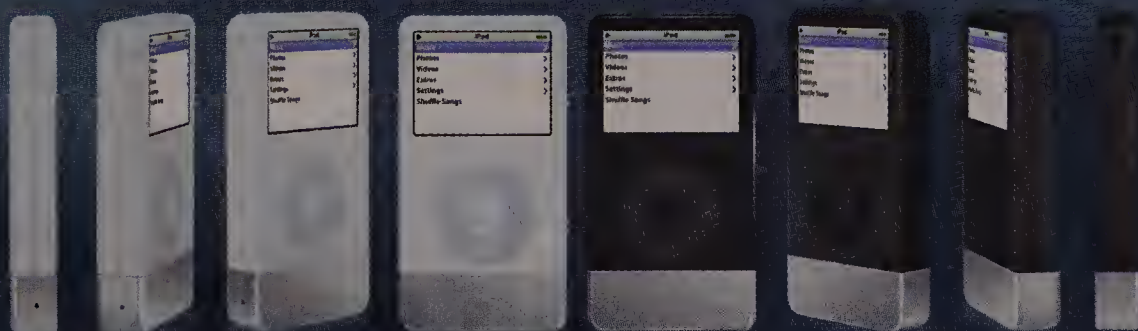
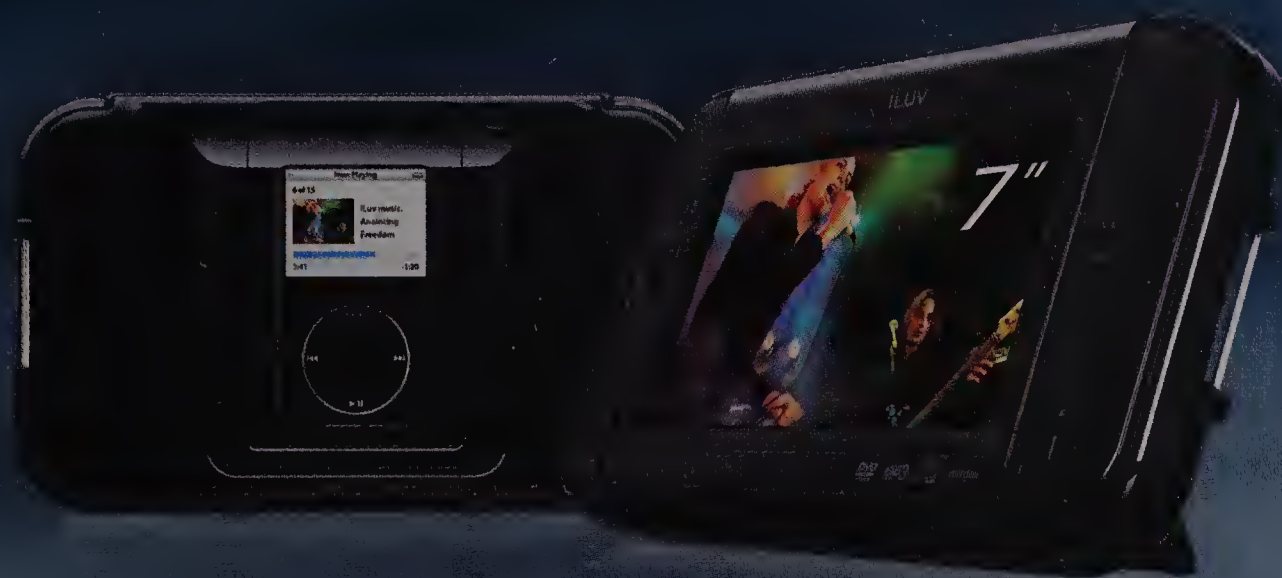
JONATHAN SEFF is Macworld's senior news editor.



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9 NETWORKING: AIRPORT TAKES OFF

By Glenn Fleishman

➔ Thanks to Apple's AirPort technology, every Mac is capable of wireless networking. In 2007, that technology is going to get a significant speed boost.

Next-Gen Wi-Fi

The current generation of Wi-Fi technology—known as AirPort Extreme to Mac users, and 802.11g to everyone else—appeared in 2003, and it's showing its age. The engineering standards group IEEE has been working on a new wireless networking standard, 802.11n, for two years now; the first stable *n* products will likely appear this spring.

While 802.11n will come in several flavors, even the slowest will be rated at 150 Mbps (meaning that its actual throughput will be around 100 Mbps). The 802.11n standard will also provide greater range

than its predecessors (802.11g and the earlier 802.11b, which was the basis for Apple's original AirPort hardware).

The combination of high speed and long range should make 802.11n great for streaming DVD- and HD-quality video around the home. Current Wi-Fi technology can handle only a few standard DVD streams and only one or two HD streams at a time. That's why Apple's hyped iTV will likely use 802.11n at some point (see "Home Entertainment: The Mac Media Center," on page 56).

But there's a question of timing: the IEEE's 802.11n task group probably

won't release its next draft of the standard—Draft 2.0—before March 2007. A final version may not be ratified for another year. Draft 2.0 gear will also need to be tested for interoperability by the Wi-Fi Alliance, which controls the Wi-Fi name. Apple released AirPort Extreme six months before the IEEE finalized the 802.11g standard, but that standard was much more settled at that point than 802.11n will be by this spring. So iTV probably won't have 802.11n initially.

Buying Advice

The safe bet is that Apple will ship the first iteration of iTV and early 2007 Macs without 802.11n but will integrate the faster standard into its products by the middle of the year. When 802.11n does appear, you'll be able to pick up Apple-branded *n* equipment, at the usual Apple premium. As for third-party equipment, make sure it has the Wi-Fi seal of approval from the Wi-Fi Alliance.

10 COMMUNICATIONS: LIVING IN A 3G WORLD

By Glenn Fleishman

➔ Over the past year, a new option for getting online wirelessly—third-generation (3G) cellular data networks—has become increasingly practical for Mac users. In 2007, expect more hardware options, better network coverage, and (unfortunately) some confusion as new 3G network standards come on line.

3G in 2007

With an account from a cell phone carrier and the right plug-in card, 3G cellular networks let you get online from pretty much anywhere you can get a cell signal and provide pretty respectable speeds. You no longer have to hunt around for an open Wi-Fi network.

The big three U.S. cellular operators—Cingular, Sprint Nextel, and Verizon Wireless—all offer 3G service now; fourth-place T-Mobile is just beginning to deploy its 3G service. Verizon and Sprint use a 3G technology called EVDO. Cingular and T-Mobile (when it finishes its network rollout) use UMTS (Universal Mobile Telecommunications

System) and HSDPA (High-Speed Downlink Packet Access). (HSDPA is faster than, and is replacing, UMTS.)

EVDO and HSDPA networks currently offer decent download speeds (400 to 700 Kbps) but upload rates are abysmal: 50 to 100 Kbps is realistic. Upcoming revisions to both standards should boost speeds tremendously in 2007.

No matter which kind of 3G network you use, you'll need compatible hardware, either a plug-in card for your laptop or a smart phone that can be used as a modem. Until recently, Mac support for that hardware has been skimpy. Of the major carriers, only Verizon Wireless offered explicit Mac support for its PC Cards; Cingular

and Sprint Nextel offer no formal help. But that may be changing. ExpressCard modems (which fit in the new slot on the MacBook Pro and on other high-end laptops) have started to show up; USB modems that can work with any Mac or other computer are on the way.

Whichever carrier you choose, 3G service tends to be expensive. Cards cost \$100 to \$300, and service plans cost \$60 to \$80 a month. Smart phones, which can be used as cell modems with some carriers, cost \$200 or more with plans costing \$40 to \$80 per month to use it in this fashion. Prices for all plans vary based on the term of your commitment, with the lowest prices typically requiring a two-year commitment and a voice subscription.

Buying Advice

If you're not desperate for 3G access, waiting until spring 2007 should provide you with many more options for your Mac. If you need service now, use Verizon Wireless with a PowerBook, and consider buying a smart phone with a carrier plan that allows its use as a 3G cell modem for other Mac models. □

GLENN FLEISHMAN writes about Wi-Fi, broadband, and cellular data at www.wifinetnews.com.



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With fast color and black/white inkjet print speeds, all the units come with such productivity features as faxing and auto document feeders that are usually not found on competitive models. To meet various customer needs, certain models include built-in Ethernet networking compatibility, a wireless (802.11b/g) network interface and even a 5.8 GHz cordless handset!

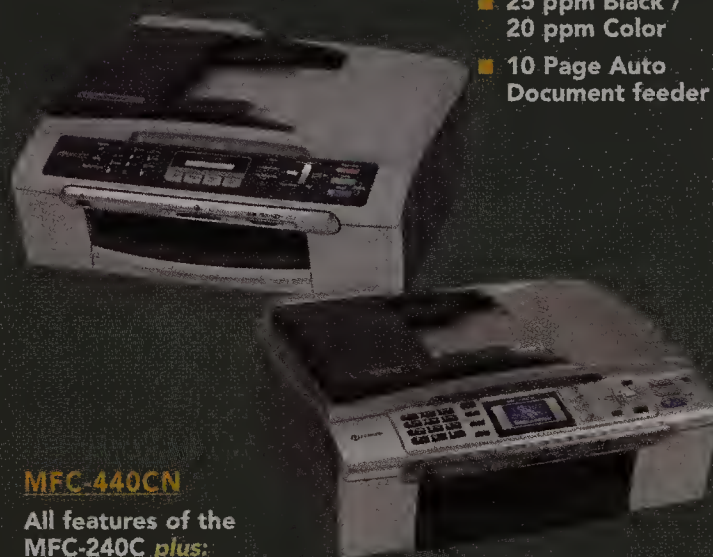
All low-profile models produce sharp, brilliant color output due to print resolutions of up to 6000 x 1200 dpi coupled with their ability to print ink droplets as small as 1.5 picoliters. When used with Brother's Innobella™ Ink Cartridges and Photo Papers, you can accurately reproduce beautiful, radiant color images while simultaneously enhancing image permanence and longevity. A standard photo bypass tray makes it easier to print your photos and regular output without changing paper each time. And on some models, a color LCD allows you to view and print your photos with or without a PC or Mac®.

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Get in Sync





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The Best Ways to Connect Your Smart Phone to the Mac

BY JEFF CARLSON AND GLENN FLEISHMAN

Cell phones have certainly evolved. Once massive bricks that, with a bit of luck, allowed you to talk to distant people, they're now intelligent devices that keep track of your contacts and calendars, display photos, play music, and work as wireless modems on-the-go—in addition to letting you make and receive phone calls. Some of these products are such multitaskers that they've earned the moniker *smart phone*.

According to the technology-analysis firm Gartner, sales of smart phones increased by 75 percent in the past year (for a total of 37.4 million devices sold worldwide), and this trend shows no signs of slowing down.

In the United States, cell phone providers are most likely to offer phones that run Palm OS, Windows Mobile, or BlackBerry software. Unfortunately, most of these companies don't have Mac users' best interests in mind when they create their phones. But with the right smart phone and the right software, you can make your phone and your Mac talk, so you can keep your contacts and appointments up-to-date, synchronize your data, and a whole lot more.

• PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER BELANGER •

Styling by Caitlin Morgenrath | Modeling by Dewey from Boom

SMART
PHONES

Palm OS

Palm-based PDAs have always been the most Mac-friendly models out there. And with the Treo, Palm has done a nice job of melding its PDAs with a cell phone that Mac users can enjoy toting around—and has showed the rest of the industry what's smart about a smart phone.

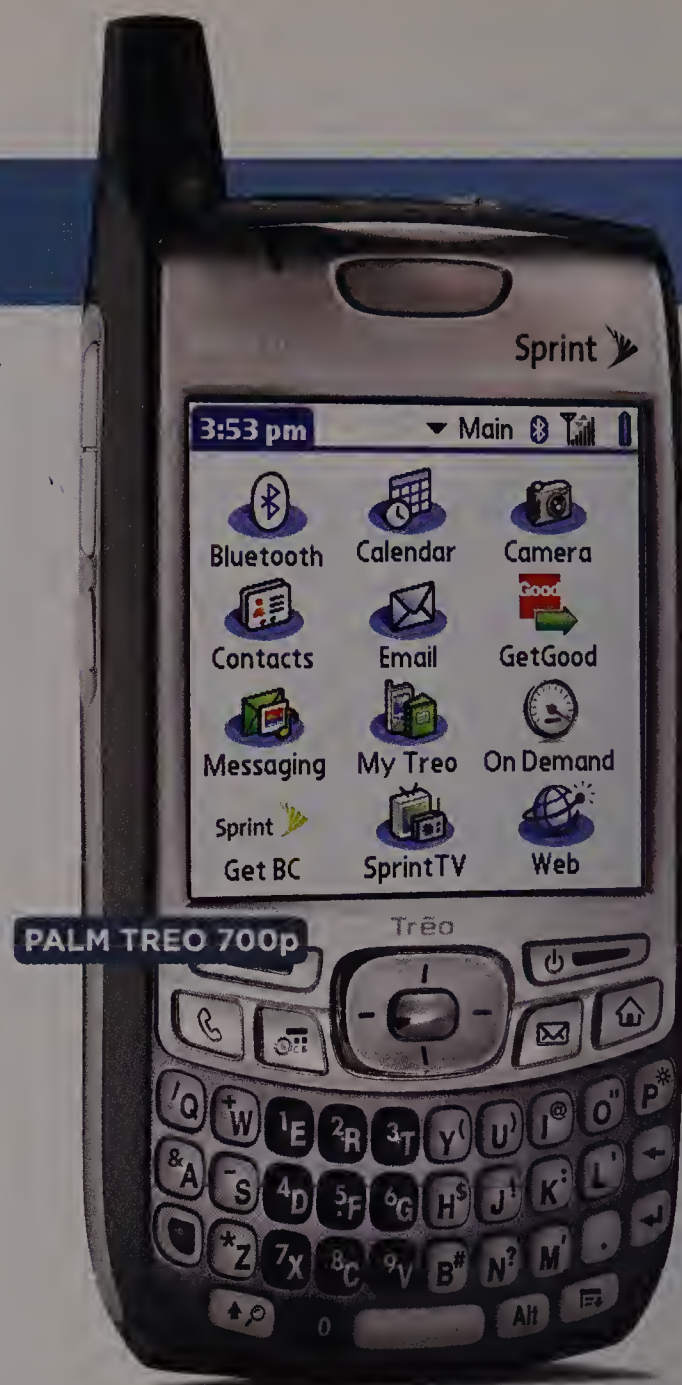
The Palm OS Approach If you've ever used a Palm OS handheld, the Treo 650, 680, or 700p will be completely familiar—mostly because Palm OS has changed little over the years. While we could argue that this indicates stagnation, it also shows that simplicity works.

The Treo includes a full miniature QWERTY keyboard and uses a four-way directional pad that, combined with a central button, makes one-handed operation possible: you can access almost all its features without using the touch screen.

One of the hallmarks of Palm OS is its thoughtful yet uncluttered interface. For example, you use large, easy-to-read buttons to activate three-way calling and the speakerphone. The Treo also includes an invaluable hardware feature: a switch on top of the device puts it into silent mode.

In the Palm of Your Hand The Missing Sync for Palm OS lets you move your iTunes playlists—in addition to standard data—onto a Palm OS-based smart phone.

Mac Synchronization Unlike the other smart phones on the market, the Treo includes its own software for synchronizing information with a Mac. The Palm Desktop software provides a place to store your contacts, appointments, tasks, and memos. And its HotSync framework, which uses a set of software plug-ins called *conduits*, shepherds traffic between Palm Desk-

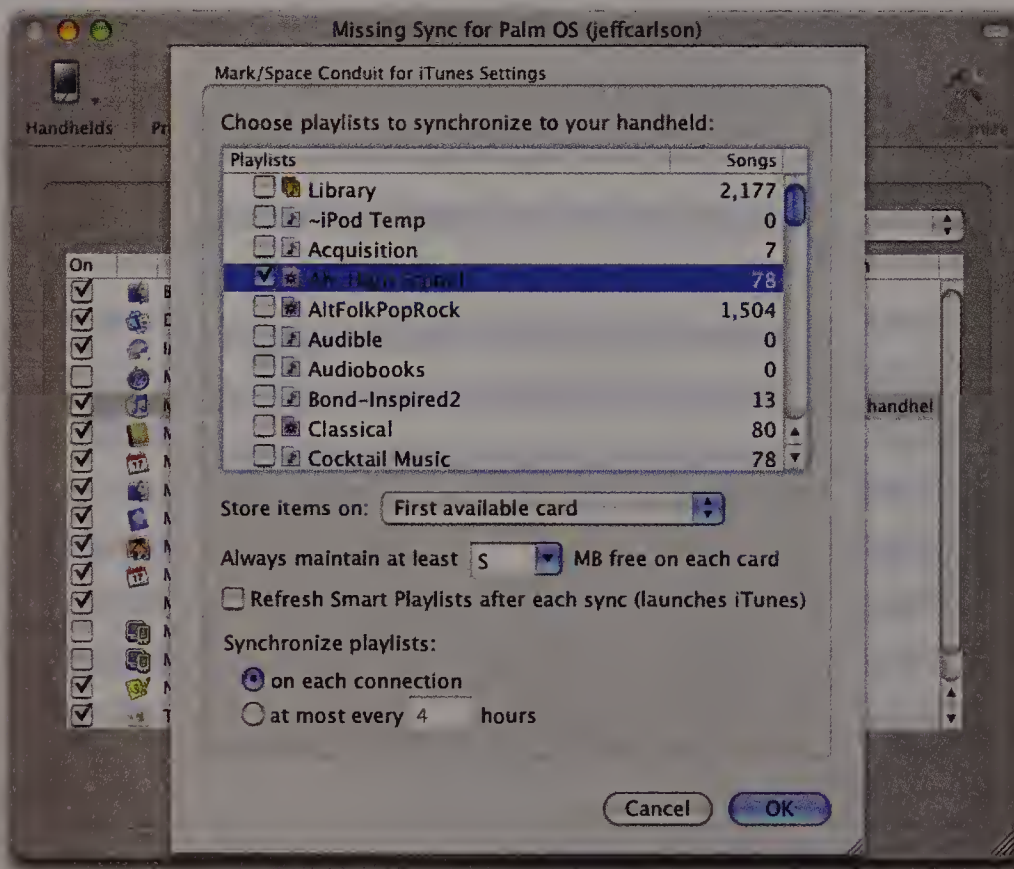


top and each of the phone's core applications. Thankfully, HotSync isn't limited to the outdated (and PowerPC-only) Palm Desktop software. You can use the USB cable included with the Treo to sync iCal and Address Book between your Treo and your Mac via iSync. To do so, choose Enable Palm OS Syncing from iSync's Devices menu (you'll still need to install Palm Desktop, which includes the HotSync software, even if you don't end up using the Palm Desktop application).

Unfortunately, Palm Desktop is getting long in the tooth—and it's unclear how much longer Palm will continue to support the Mac. A much better alternative is Mark/Space's \$40 The Missing Sync for Palm OS 5.1.1 (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2246). The Missing Sync uses OS X 10.4's Sync Services to synchronize data with Apple applications, letting it bypass iSync altogether. It's also a Universal application, so it works well on PowerPC- and Intel-based Macs alike.

The Missing Sync can synchronize any folder in the Finder to a smart phone's SD memory card, includes a Mac application for both viewing and creating memos, and comes with a conduit for updating the phone's clock when you synchronize the phone with your Mac.

E-mail The Treo includes the VersaMail e-mail client, which supports POP, IMAP, and Microsoft



Exchange ActiveSync accounts. It directly retrieves e-mail messages over the smart phone's built-in modem; the Treo 700p can access Verizon's high-speed EVDO network in the United States, for example. The phone comes with several presets, such as one for .Mac accounts, that help you set up the software. However, many people prefer Snapperfish's SnapperMail 2.3 (\$25 to \$60; snappermail.com), which is a fuller-featured e-mail app.

While cell network operators don't offer BlackBerry-style push e-mail (which we'll explain in more detail in the BlackBerry section) as a feature with Palm OS, several companies (including Yahoo) let you push messages to your device from their hosted e-mail, or offer plug-ins for corporate mail servers.

Unfortunately, there's no way to transfer desktop e-mail to your Treo when you synchronize the device. Although Windows users have enjoyed this capability for years, it has never made its way to the Mac (or not very well, at least).

Other Media Palm covers the basics by including HotSync conduits that let you send music and images to a Treo, a Media application for displaying photos, and a version of RealPlayer for listening to music (none of the smart phones out there can play music or videos purchased from the iTunes Store). The Missing Sync for Palm OS goes beyond Palm's efforts by including its own conduits that tie into iTunes and iPhoto. You can choose only playlists and albums, not

individual songs or pictures, but it lets you do things such as create a smart playlist that's limited to 100MB and contains your highest-rated songs, for example.

The iPhoto conduit works in both directions, so you can move photos you've shot using the Treo's built-in camera directly to iPhoto or a folder in the Finder. Double-click on the Mark/Space Photos conduit and select the Download Pictures From Handheld option to set it up.

And for people who like to read news, sports updates, travel advice, and more, Mark/Space's support for AvantGo is a welcome addition. Mark/Space has created a conduit that connects to AvantGo's servers during synchronization, letting you download Web content to your phone. (The AvantGo application on the Treo can also take advantage of the smart phone's wireless data connection for Internet access on-the-go.)

In case you want to get some work done during your daily commute, the Treo includes DataViz's Documents To Go (www.dataviz.com), which lets you read and edit Microsoft Word and Excel documents, as well as sync them back to your Mac.

The Bottom Line In terms of integration with the Mac, it's hard to beat a Palm OS Treo. Although Palm has provided minimal support for the Mac, a small investment in The Missing Sync for Palm OS makes the Treo the most Mac-friendly smart phone on the market.

Symbian: Worldwide Dominance, U.S. Absence

You may have noticed that one smart phone platform is missing from the larger story: Symbian OS. Although Symbian runs roughly 70 percent of all smart phones worldwide, it has barely a toehold in the United States (similarly, Linux is number two globally but U.S. carriers don't sell Linux smart phones).

So why is Symbian virtually absent in the United States? We use two different cell network types: GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) and CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access). Worldwide, GSM dominates, but in the States CDMA is in the lead.

Though Nokia once had plans to release a CDMA-based Symbian model for the U.S. market, the company announced in September 2006 that it would no longer make CDMA phones of any kind.

Even among GSM networks, there are variations in frequencies used, and the United States is out of sync with much of the rest of the world. Until recently, Symbian phones didn't handle some of the GSM spectrum in use in the States; this limited Symbian's rollout here and prevented European

phones from working as effectively in the United States.

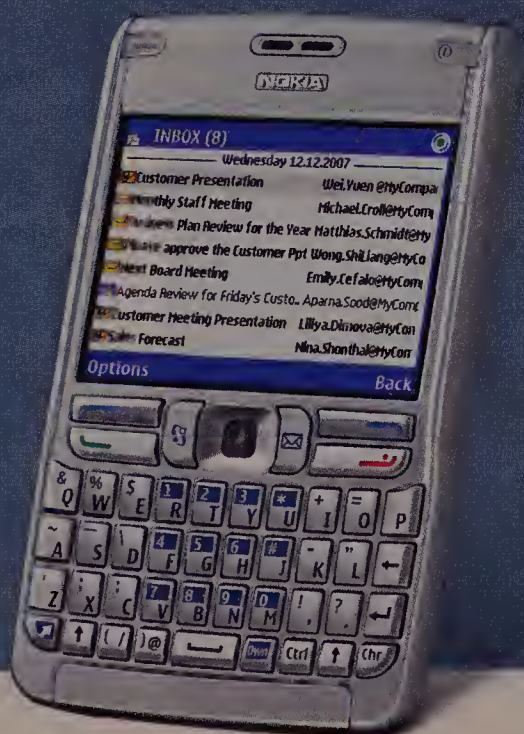
Finally, there is a mismatch in 3G high-speed data networks. European carriers use different frequencies for their GSM 3G networks than U.S. carriers use. Because smart phones are now typically coupled with 3G networks, it was unlikely that Cingular—as it rolled out its own

network—would sell a smart phone that could run only at modem speeds.

Only Cingular sells Nokia Symbian smart phones in the United States, and it sells only two models (although you can purchase unlocked phones separately from the carriers and then add service to them on Cingular's or T-Mobile's network). Despite all this, Apple does support some Symbian devices through iSync. The Sony Ericsson UIQ and the Nokia S60 series phones (for example, the Nokia E62 sold by Cingular [pictured here]) work with built-in support for basic information synchronization.

For people with phones that iSync doesn't support natively, Nova Media (www.novamedia.de) sells a set of iSync plug-ins for a variety of Symbian phones, for €10. Some Symbian phones offer full Bluetooth support for copying files, as well as OS X-compatible USB support for transferring music and other files to the phone.

Symbian may make a greater push into the United States in the future, but for now, phones that use it are hard to come by.



SMART
PHONES

Windows Mobile

If you use a Windows PC all day, a smart phone running Windows Mobile is instantly familiar. But that's not a whole lot of help to most Mac users—who have their reasons for avoiding Windows. Still, some people prefer Microsoft's smart phone approach, and some were handed a Windows Mobile device when they joined a company—so here's how to work with one.

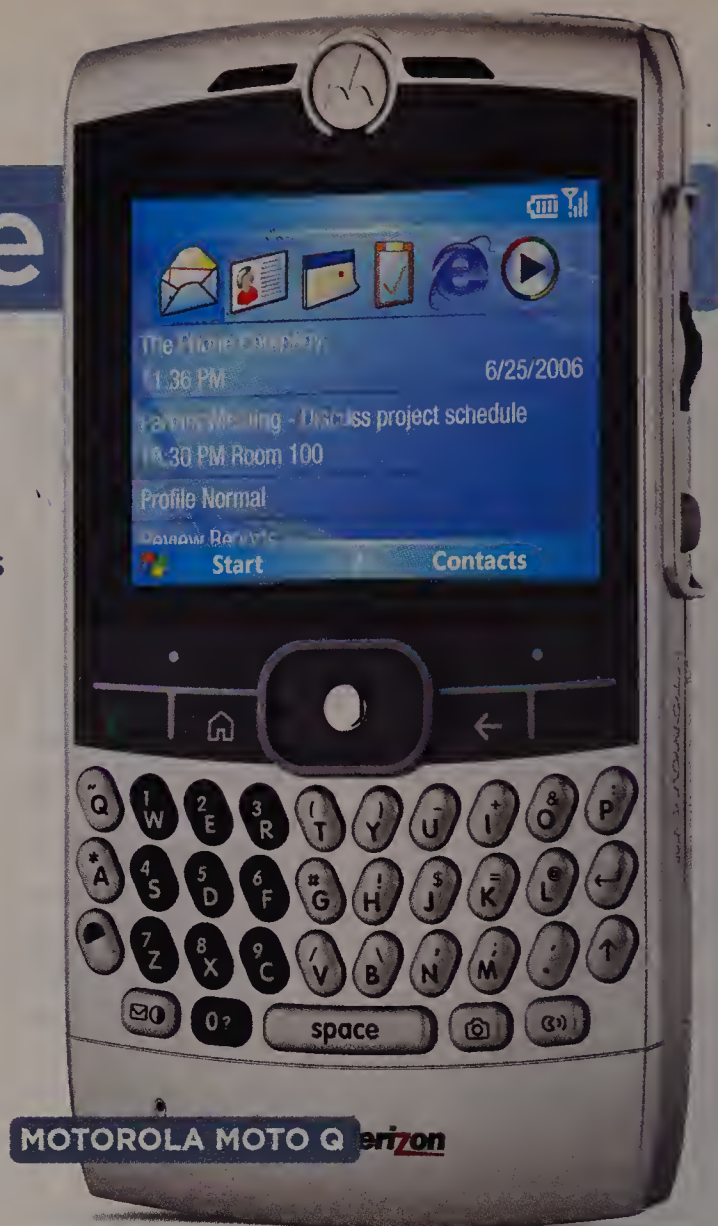
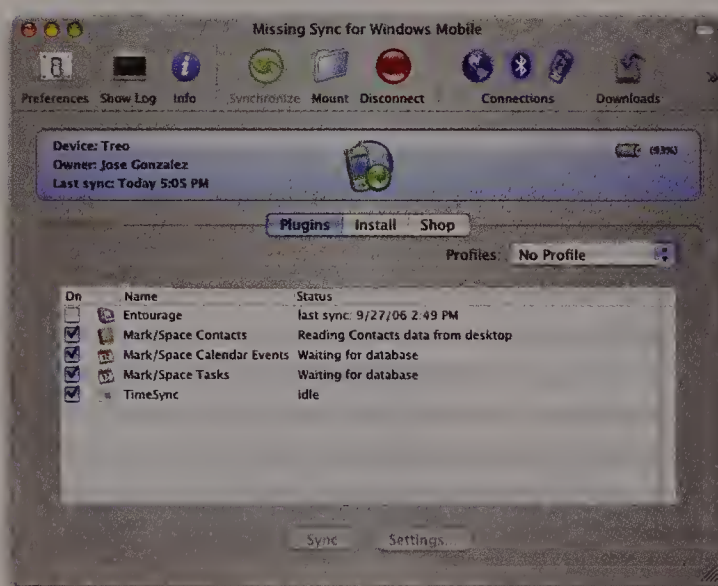
The Windows Mobile Approach Like Windows, Windows Mobile uses a Start menu. Windows Mobile's Start menu contains applications such as Calendar, Contacts, and Internet Explorer. Folders called Programs and Settings reinforce the desktop file-and-folder approach. Windows Mobile includes versions of Word and Excel, which you can use to open, edit, and save documents that their desktop counterparts created. A mobile version of PowerPoint can run (but not edit) slide shows. And perhaps the biggest draw for many people, especially if the phone is provided by an employer, is the ability to easily interact with a Microsoft Exchange server for e-mail.

However, Mac users might feel a bit disoriented. Nothing exemplifies this more than the catchall OK button, which performs dismissive actions such as moving backward in a hierarchy or closing windows. But as with many aspects of using Windows XP, pressing the OK button over and over may become habitual over time—and not seem quite so bizarre.

Mac Synchronization Out of the box, Windows Mobile smart phones, such as the new Motorola Moto Q, offer zero Mac support. So while you'll be able to place calls and access online content, you're stuck using the keypad to enter names and phone numbers unless you buy some additional software.

Two developers have stepped in with products that let you sync a Windows Mobile device with your Mac: Mark/Space's \$40 The Missing Sync for Win-

Going Mobile With The Missing Sync for Windows Mobile, you can establish an active connection to your Windows Mobile smart phone, and then synchronize your data or mount the device on the desktop.



dows Mobile 3.0 (♦♦♦♦; macworld.com/2368) and Information Appliance Associates' PocketMac Pro (\$42; www.pocketmac.net)—at press time, PocketMac Pro didn't support Windows Mobile 5.0, though the company promises to add support in a future release.

Windows Mobile uses a technology called ActiveSync to facilitate communication between a smart phone and a computer; both Mark/Space and Information Appliance Associates have adapted ActiveSync to work with the Mac. Attaching your smart phone to your Mac with a USB cable initiates an open connection to the computer; Bluetooth connections are also possible. In The Missing Sync, you can set preferences to automatically synchronize the phone when it's connected.

In terms of synchronizing your contacts, calendars, and notes, both applications have you covered. The Missing Sync works with Tiger's Sync Services, so any organizer software that takes advantage of Sync Services can tie into The Missing Sync. PocketMac Pro (we tested a Windows Mobile 5.0-compatible beta) includes profiles for Marketcircle's Daylite and Now Up-to-Date and Contact, as well as Apple's built-in applications and Microsoft Entourage.

You can also browse the device directly, which is handy for manually copying files; The Missing Sync mounts the smart phone on your desktop as if it were a network volume, while PocketMac Pro displays the files in a window. Both programs also include an option that automatically synchronizes the contents of a given folder, making it easy to

take your active project files with you on your smart phone.

E-mail Windows Mobile 5.0's Messaging application supports POP, IMAP, Outlook, and Hotmail accounts for direct e-mail connections through the phone's Internet access.

If you want to synchronize e-mail between the smart phone and the Mac, however, you're limited to PocketMac Pro, which talks to Entourage and Apple's Mail programs; The Missing Sync doesn't include e-mail synchronization at all.

Microsoft updated Exchange Server 2003 last year to offer BlackBerry-style push e-mail, along with synchronization of appointments, contacts, notes, and tasks. Third parties sell push e-mail services and corporate mail-server plug-ins, too.

Other Media Obviously, you want to synchronize your contact and calendar information easily, but what about the other data you always need to keep at hand? PocketMac Pro and The Missing

Sync for Windows Mobile also handle those.

Since every smart phone now competes on some level with the iPod, it's no surprise that Windows Mobile 5.0 includes Windows Media Player 10 for playing audio and video files. Unfortunately, the only format familiar to Mac users is MP3; the player also handles WMA, WMV, and ASF, which are not ideal for Mac users. You can copy compatible files directly to the device's My Documents folder, but both sync programs also offer plug-ins that can synchronize music with iTunes. The device can play back your tunes through Windows Media Player. The same approach applies to photos, too, with iPhoto plug-ins or direct copying.

The Bottom Line Windows Mobile 5.0 is certainly a far cry from the Mac experience, and by itself a Windows Mobile smart phone isn't a good choice for Mac users. But with the addition of The Missing Sync for Windows Mobile or PocketMac Pro, it can be a welcome accessory.

BlackBerry

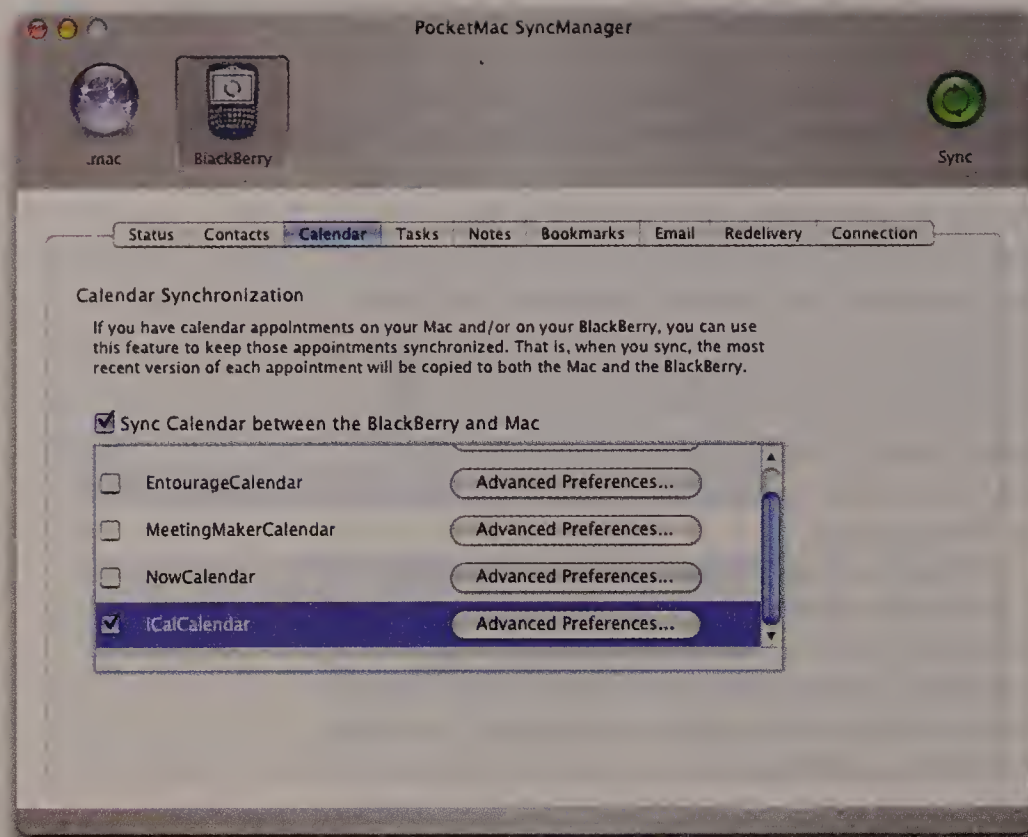
The e-mail-focused BlackBerry, by Research in Motion (RIM), inaugurated the smart-phone category and is still largely regarded as a must-have accessory in corporate and government realms. Its Mac support is fairly limited, but e-mail junkies (and people whose jobs require them to be available at all times) can convince a BlackBerry to sync with their Macs.

The BlackBerry Approach The BlackBerry's dominance in the corporate world is largely a result of its e-mail-centric approach. The BlackBerry introduced the concept of push e-mail, an innovation that has now spread to most other smart phones. When you use a regular e-mail program on a computer to check e-mail, you're using a "pull" process: the client initiates a connection with a server, checks for new messages, and retrieves them. The e-mail is pulled off the server in a *synchronous*, or real-time, operation. As a result, you have to wait for that process to finish before you can see new messages.

The BlackBerry, however, allows for *asynchronous* message delivery. You configure the BlackBerry service for one or more e-mail accounts, the RIM servers regularly check those e-mail accounts, and when the servers spot new messages, they push the e-mail to your BlackBerry. (You can also receive e-mail through a provided address.) As a result, you get messages quicker.



There are many BlackBerry models available, and some provide 3G cellular connections for faster, or an alternative method of, data transfer. But we tested the BlackBerry 7250, as sold by Verizon Wireless, which has a fast EVDO modem.



A Berry Good Year

PocketMac for BlackBerry lets you control many aspects of your BlackBerry's communication with OS X, including synchronization with one of several popular calendar programs.

BlackBerry smart phones started out with a wide design to accommodate their miniature QWERTY keyboards, which functioned just like standard computer keyboards. But the 7100 series and the new Pearl 8100 smart phones replace the one-letter-per-key keyboard with a two-letter-per-key predictive typing system that fits onto a smaller, more phone-like design (the 4 key, for instance, also acts as the D and F keys).

Because of its awkward navigation, the BlackBerry interface may irritate Mac, Palm, and even Windows Mobile users. BlackBerry phones don't offer touch screens, so there's no mouse-like stylus for choosing icons. Instead, most models have a wheel on the side to scroll through items and pages. Pressing it at close to a 90-degree angle to the device selects and activates items. Small deviations result in scrolling.

Although a BlackBerry's scrolling method makes for nice, one-handed operation, the fact that the device represents standard functions with somewhat arbitrarily ordered icons in multiple rows on the screen makes the interface difficult to work with. Pressing the alt key (which has a half-moon icon) allows for up and down scrolling, but it's no less awkward—and it requires two hands.

Mac Synchronization RIM doesn't offer desktop management software for OS X, but the company does freely distribute (as long as you're willing to provide your name, address, and e-mail address) Information Appliance Associates' PocketMac for BlackBerry 4.0 (♦♦♦; macworld.com/2262), which is a Universal app.

PocketMac for BlackBerry works very much like Apple's iSync—no doubt because it was formerly an iSync plug-in. The current incarnation functions better as a stand-alone program, avoiding some of iSync's limitations. You use PocketMac to choose

which data you want to synchronize to various programs on the Mac. This approach allows you to be eclectic—for example, using iCal for your calendar and tasks, and Entourage for contacts and e-mail.

Current BlackBerry models come with USB cables for synchronization, and although many include Bluetooth wireless networking, you can't use Bluetooth for synchronization on most models. (The exception is the Pearl model.)

E-mail Configuring push e-mail and setting an e-mail address for the BlackBerry itself are quite straightforward. It's admirable that adding an e-mail address for a BlackBerry doesn't require a separate visit, via computer, to a Web site and lots of data entry. You're already on a uniquely registered device; RIM takes advantage of that.

PocketMac also offers two methods of linking e-mail between your Mac and a BlackBerry. With PocketMac running, you can set Entourage or Apple Mail to forward incoming messages to your BlackBerry's e-mail address.

You can also load e-mail from the BlackBerry back onto your Mac. The E-mail Synchronization option copies messages that are found only in the BlackBerry's inbox or sent-mail folder to either Entourage or Mail.

Other Media The new Pearl, unlike other BlackBerry models, can play audio and video files, store items on a microSD (Secure Digital) card that's mountable on the desktop, transfer files with Bluetooth, and function as a cell data modem. However, the Pearl lacks the iPhoto integration that Palm OS and Windows Mobile devices offer, and syncing with iTunes requires PocketMac's \$10 pearlTunes app.

The Bottom Line If you need constant and instantaneous access to e-mail while away from your computer—or work in a place that expects that of you—the BlackBerry may be just what you need. However, we find its interface and Mac integration seriously backward when compared to the other two smart phone platforms. In the end, the BlackBerry prizes e-mail above all else, and it shows.

The Last Word

Mac users have never had it so good when it comes to synchronizing important data—no matter which type of smart phone you choose, there's software to help you make the connection. And if you prefer a particular phone for some reason, you can rest assured that it can interact with your Mac on some level. But we feel that Palm OS is particularly suited to Mac users—thanks to its longtime and extensive support for Mac syncing—especially when paired with The Missing Sync for Palm OS. □

JEFF CARLSON is the managing editor of TidBits (www.tidbits.com) and the author of *iMovie HD 6 and iDVD 6 for Mac OS X: Visual QuickStart Guide* (Peachpit Press, 2006). GLENN FLEISHMAN writes for the *Economist*, the *New York Times*, and *Popular Science*.

HEROES V

OF MIGHT AND MAGIC



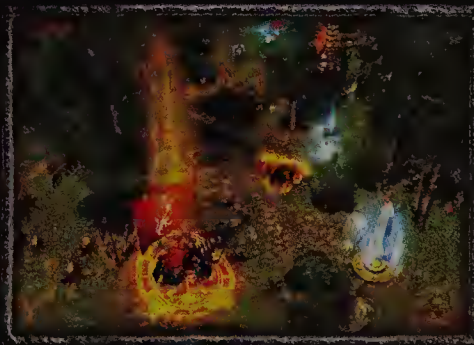
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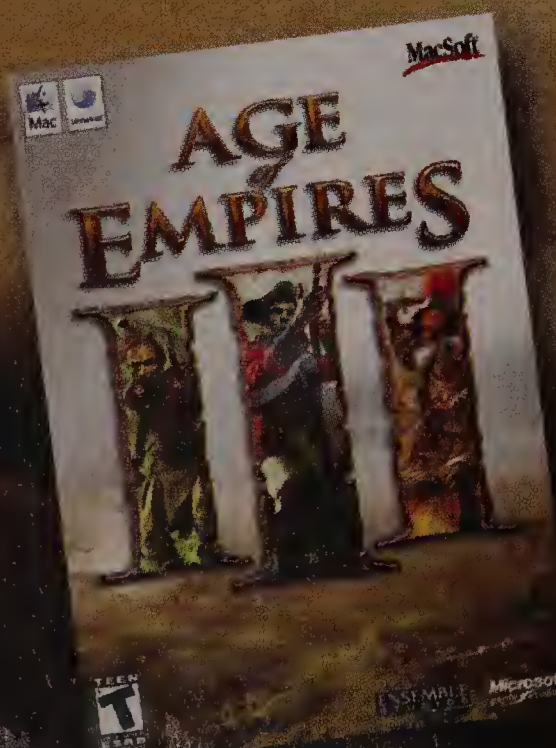


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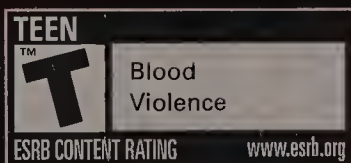
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GAME HALL OF FAME

10 of the Year's Best Mac Games and Coolest Accessories **By Peter Cohen**

If you're a pessimist, 2006 probably looked like a bleak year for Mac gaming. There were few major releases, because key game makers cut back on their offerings. But from an optimist's point of view, 2006 set the stage for great things to come. Software for running Windows on the Mac promises to ultimately put Mac gamers on a level playing field with PC gamers. And while big-name

games may have been in short supply, many smaller developers released great new offerings.

So let's welcome the latest inductees to *Macworld's* Game Hall of Fame, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. From scary zombies to graphically advanced games, our latest Hall of Famers are creative and fun enough to win over even the most doom-and-gloom gamer.

BEST BANG FOR THE BUCK

Avernum 4

\$25; Spiderweb Software, www.avernum.com

What It Is: An old-school role-playing game from a master of the form.

Who It's For: Anyone who played D&D back in the day—or still does.

Why It's a Hall of Famer: Spiderweb's games aren't the flashiest RPGs in the world, but you can't beat Avernum's incredible depth and breadth of storytelling—there are hundreds of side missions you can undertake, as well as major quests. Wringing the most out of Avernum 4 will take you weeks, if not months. The game is also incredibly scalable, working on Mac operating systems as far back as OS 8.1—just awesome if you have an aging system on which you'd given up being able to play games at all.



BEST WAY TO PLAY CONSOLE GAMES ON THE MAC

EyeTV EZ

\$150; Elgato Systems, www.elgato.com

What It Is: A box that lets you connect a video-game system, or a cable or satellite TV signal, to your Mac.

Who It's For: People who want to play console games on something other than an Xbox or a PlayStation.

Why It's a Hall of Famer: Unlike other DVR interfaces, the EyeTV EZ doesn't encode video in MPEG before sending it to the Mac. So there isn't any appreciable lag between the time something happens on the video-game console and when it appears on your screen. That means you can hook up a PlayStation,

an Xbox, or another system to the EyeTV EZ through an S-Video or a composite-video connection (or just use a switch box) and play any game you want, using your Mac's display instead of a TV. That's terrific if space is tight, or if you just want to see what Donkey Kong Country looks like on a 30-inch Apple Cinema HD Display.



BEST TRIP BACK IN TIME

Call of Duty 2

\$50; Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

What It Is: A World War II-era first-person shooter.

Who It's For: Anyone who dreams of giving the Axis powers what for.

Why It's a Hall of

Famer: Few World War II-era fighting games can match Call of Duty 2's gritty, realistic depiction of in-the-mud World War II combat for Allied soldiers fighting on different fronts. Unlike many FPS games, it has no health packs—if you're winged by a bullet, you have to find cover and hide until you can catch your breath. And lifelike artificial intelligence, top-notch voice acting, and dynamic weather conditions make this an eerily real fighting game.



Hall of Famers Reviewed

To read Peter Cohen's reviews of these Game Hall of Fame inductees—or any Mac game—visit www.macworld.com/topics/software/games/.

PRODUCT	RATING	MORE INFORMATION
Avernum 4	★★★★	macworld.com/1346
Call of Duty 2	★★★★½	macworld.com/2248
EyeTV EZ	★★★★½	macworld.com/1065
Jets'n'Guns	★★★★	macworld.com/1463
PC Con Wireless	★★★★	macworld.com/2249
Quake 4	★★★★	macworld.com/1465
Quinn	★★★★	macworld.com/1234
Stubbs the Zombie	★★★★	macworld.com/1086
TubeTwist	★★★★½	macworld.com/1202
WingNuts 2: Raina's Revenge	★★★★½	macworld.com/2247



BEST GUILTY PLEASURE

Jets'n'Guns

\$20; Rake In Grass, jng.rakeingrass.com

What It Is: A side-scrolling 2-D action game that has roots in the 1980s, all the way down to its metal soundtrack.

Who It's For: Anyone who has played *Gradius*, *Choplifter*, or a similar game while rocking out to full-blast Judas Priest on a Walkman.

Why It's a Hall of Famer: The simple, kitschy appeal of the golden age of video games and game consoles will never go out of style. And it's not hard to understand why, when you need 15 buttons and double-jointed coordination to play something on an Xbox 360 with any degree of skill. The title of this game tells you all you need to know: there are plenty of both jets and guns in this game that mixes 1940s fighter and bomber designs and a sci-fi setting. In *Jets'n'Guns*, you make your way across alien landscapes, blasting anything that moves, collecting cash and power-ups as they fall from the sky, and hot-rodding between levels. The hour-long metal soundtrack from European metal band *Machinae Supremacy* is the icing on the cake. Two devil horns up for this retro masterpiece.

BEST MOTIVATION FOR UPGRADING YOUR VIDEO CARD

Quake 4

\$50; Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

What It Is: The sequel to the legendary shooter *Quake 2* (yes, that's *Quake 2*).

Who It's For: Hard-core gamers looking for cutting-edge FPS play.

Why It's a Hall of Famer:

This game pushes you and your Mac's hardware to the limit as you pick up where the story in *Quake 2* left off—on the surface of the Strogg home world, fighting back an alien menace that threatens all of mankind. The game looks absolutely incredible, with detailed graphics and special effects that will tax even the hardest Mac Pro. In fact, *Quake 4* is a good excuse to spend the extra \$250 on a Radeon X1900 XT graphics card—assuming you haven't already.



More Online

Game guru Peter Cohen looks back at 2006's biggest Mac gaming trends, at macworld.com/2250. And he tells you what's coming down the pike in 2007, at macworld.com/2251.

BEST REASON TO LOAD UP ON AA BATTERIES

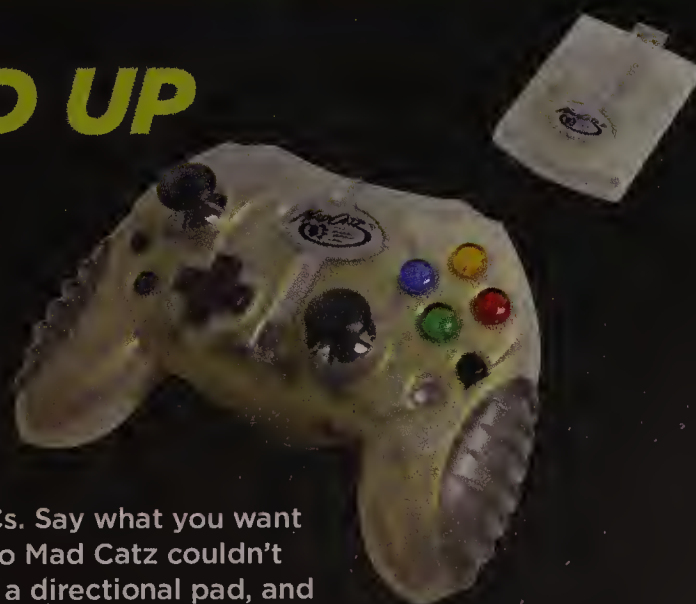
PC Con Wireless

\$30; Mad Catz, www.madcatz.com

What It Is: A Mac-compatible, wireless (radio frequency) game pad.

Who It's For: Gamers longing for a game controller that doesn't add more wiry clutter to a desk.

Why It's a Hall of Famer: Mad Catz took a proven design—Microsoft's Controller S layout from the Xbox—and adapted it to play on both Macs and PCs. Say what you want about Microsoft and the Xbox, but the Controller S is a superb game pad, so Mad Catz couldn't have picked a better source from which to crib. Twin thumbsticks, triggers, a directional pad, and tons of buttons make this a versatile and excellent input device for Mac games that actually support controllers using Apple's HID Manager software. (And for games that don't, you can always add a third-party application like USB Overdrive for another \$20 or so.)



BEST RETURN FROM THE DEAD

Quinn

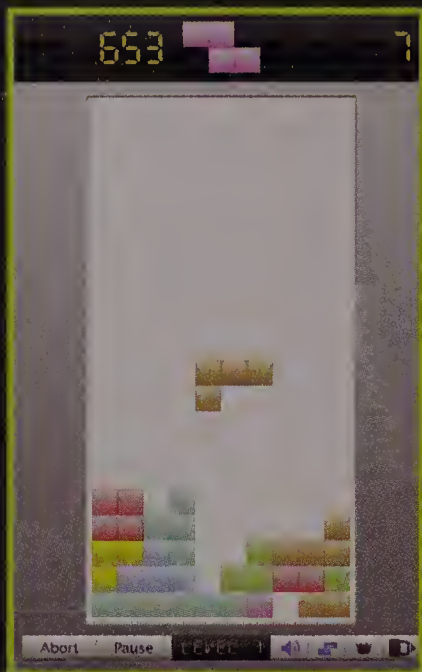
free; Simon Härtel, www.simonhaertel.de

What It Is: A networkable Tetris clone that won't cost you a penny.

Who It's For: Anyone who likes falling-block games and wants to play against other people online.

Why It's a Hall of Famer:

Earlier this year, it looked as though we'd seen the last of Quinn, an Aqua-licious Tetris-style falling-blocks game with Bonjour networking and support for custom pieces and backgrounds. The Tetris Company threatened legal action, and the game had to be taken offline for a while. But thanks to help from technology-rights advocacy group Electronic Frontier Foundation and others, Quinn is back and better than ever.



BEST EXCUSE FOR EATING BRAINS

Stubbs the Zombie

\$50; Aspyr Media, www.aspyr.com

What It Is: Zombies are terrorizing this innocuous town, but instead of saving the townsfolk, you're the big zombie on campus.

Who It's For: Anyone who has rooted for the bad guys in *Dawn of the Dead* and *Resident Evil*.

Why It's a Hall of Famer:

Stubbs developer Wide-load Games—which was founded by former members of Bungie—reminded us why we liked Bungie's games so much, with this game and its surplus of slapstick (like flatulence bombs that incapacitate everyone nearby). Stubbs doesn't take too long to complete, but the game makes up for this with plenty of blood-soaked fun. What's more, Stubbs boasts one of the best soundtracks of the year, with covers of 1950s pop tunes by alternative bands like Cake and the Dandy Warhols.



BEST GAME WORTH WAITING FOR

WingNuts 2: Raina's Revenge

\$30; Freeverse Software, www.freeverse.com

What It Is: The long-awaited sequel to a game that came out five years ago.

Who It's For: Anyone who fondly remembers the arcade-game classic Time Pilot.

Why It's a Hall of Famer: Take Freeverse's offbeat

sense of humor and mix it with healthy heapings of arcade-style fun. Sprinkle with liberal amounts of beautiful graphics effects—such as smoke and particle explosions, and little airplane pieces that fall and splash into the water far below—and add a level editor that gives you all the tools you need to make your very own addons. It's a recipe for tons of fun.



BEST BRAIN-BUSTING PUZZLE

TubeTwist

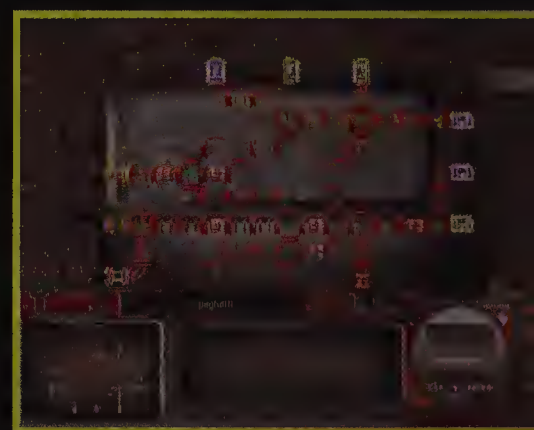
\$20; GarageGames, www.garagegames.com

What It Is: A puzzle game in which you have to build contraptions made of tubes.

Who It's For: Anyone looking for a cerebral game that's also super-model-pretty.

Why It's a Hall of Famer:

Kinetic puzzle games can be really fun, especially when they look this great. You're on the trail of Professor Jaymour—discoverer of a large, globular energy form known as the Macroton—who has gone missing across time. To find her, you must reconstruct her Rube Goldberg-esque tubular machines, which guide Macrotons into reactor tubes. Eighty levels will keep you quite busy in TubeTwist, which uses OpenGL 3-D graphics to their fullest.



PETER COHEN writes Macworld.com's Game Room blog; he has been covering the Mac game market since 1994—long before Warcraft had its own world.

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Launch Your Productivity

Mac OS X gives you many ways to open applications. You can click on their icons in the Dock, sidebar, or toolbar; double-click on their icons in the Finder; or use Spotlight to find and launch them. But all of these methods have one thing in common—they're *slow*. If you need speed—or more options—you need a *launcher*.

These add-on programs let you jump to the right application or file with just a few keystrokes, and they pack a wide variety of other time-saving shortcuts. Which launcher you use is a matter of personal preference. All of them let you open an item quickly by pressing a keyboard shortcut, typing the first few letters of the desired item's name, and then pressing return. You might find their other features indispensable or confusing, depending on how you work.

Here, three writers discuss some of the coolest things you can do with Peter Maurer's free Butler (★★★★; macworld.com/1246), Objective Development's \$20 LaunchBar (★★★★; macworld.com/1010), and Blacktree's free Quicksilver (★★★★; macworld.com/1247).

Full-Featured Butler

When one application can replace several, and do even more than they could, it's a winner in my book. Here are some tasks at which Butler excels:

Speed Up Spotlight Searches Don't you hate how Spotlight starts searching before you've even completed your search term? Use Butler to send your *completed* query to Spotlight. Just add a new Spotlight Search Smart Item to Butler's configuration and assign a hot key to it. Press that hot key, enter your Spotlight search term, and press return when you're ready for Spotlight to search. You can even toggle between

searching file contents and file names by pressing the up or down arrow before you press return.

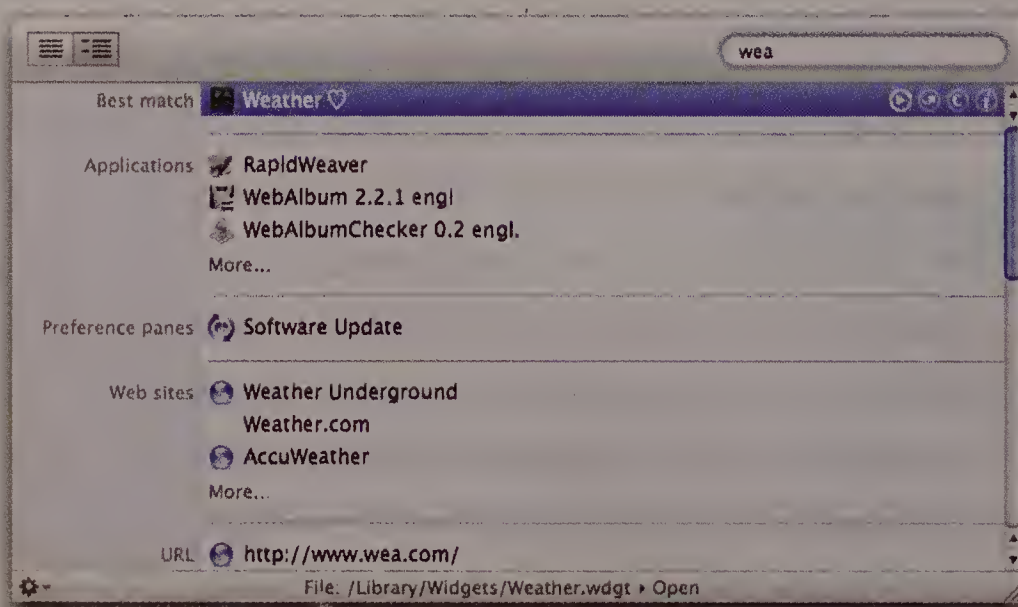
Search the Web I search many Web sites—Mac OS X Hints, Google, and Wikipedia, to name but three. Butler's Web search tool lets you start searches without first loading the parent site in your browser. Add as many Web Search Smart Items to Butler's configuration as you need, and assign them hot keys. I use shift-option-control as the key combination for my Web searches. If I press those keys along with W, I get a Wikipedia search box, or I can use G for a Google search or H for a Mac OS X Hints search.

Launch Dashboard Widgets In the General section of Butler's preferences, add two new folders for Butler to search for applications: /Library/Widgets and *your user folder*/Library/Widgets. Now you can open a Dashboard widget just by pressing control-spacebar and entering a few letters of the widget's name (see "Fishing for Widgets").

Control iTunes Using Butler's iTunes Smart Items, you can start, stop, skip forward or backward, and even rate songs—all without ever activating iTunes. You can do this via the Butler entry in the menu bar, or (my preference) use hot keys that you define. The shortcuts work in any application, so I don't have to go hunting for iTunes' window or use iTunes' Dock icon to access these functions.—ROB GRIFFITHS

Fishing for Widgets

Use Butler to launch any Dashboard widget directly from the keyboard—just press control-spacebar, type a few letters of the widget's name, and press return.



Streamlined LaunchBar

I like LaunchBar because it's fast, it's easy to use, and it isn't cluttered with obscure features. Here are some of my favorite ways to use it:

Hop to Documents and Data Sure, launchers let you find and launch applications, but what about specific files and data? After you've used LaunchBar to find an application, press the right-arrow key. If you're in a document-based application, such as TextEdit, you'll get a list of recent documents.

LaunchBar can access additional options in some applications. For example, if you select iTunes with LaunchBar, pressing the right-arrow key lets you navigate your library—including playlists, albums, artists, and songs—and begin playback (see "iTunes at Your Fingertips").

Make Quick Copies Need to copy a file on your desktop to a folder nestled deep down in your hard drive? Activate LaunchBar and type the first few letters of the folder's name; when the folder's icon appears in LaunchBar, drag the file onto the icon. A menu lets you choose to move or copy the file to that folder, or to create an alias of it there.

Cruise Your Contacts If you keep all your contact information in OS X's Address Book or Microsoft's Entourage, typing the first few letters of a person's name—or just his or her initials—will bring up the appropriate contact in LaunchBar. Once you're there, press return to open the contact record, press shift-return to open a new e-mail message addressed to that person, or press the right-arrow key repeatedly to move through the contact's information. If you're ready to dial, press the return key to view the phone number on screen in large type.

Browse Files and Folders Whenever LaunchBar displays a folder or volume, you can press the right-arrow key to see its contents and then use the arrow keys to navigate through them.

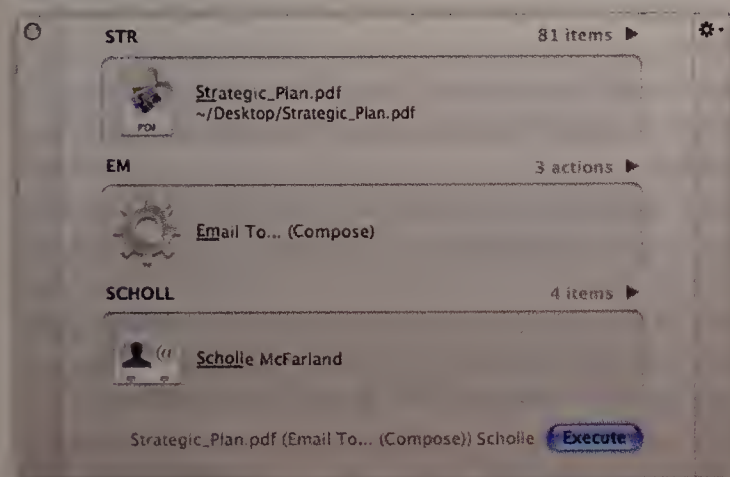
Soup Up Spotlight Searching Activate LaunchBar and press ⌘-F to perform advanced Spotlight searches—no need for Spotlight's awkward search syntax. For example, type ical tomorrow to tell Spotlight to find tomorrow's iCal events.

Only the Essentials LaunchBar can do lots of cool things, but if you don't *want* to do some of them, it's easy to keep those features from getting in your way. Use LaunchBar's configuration window to disable whatever you don't need.—DAN FRAKES

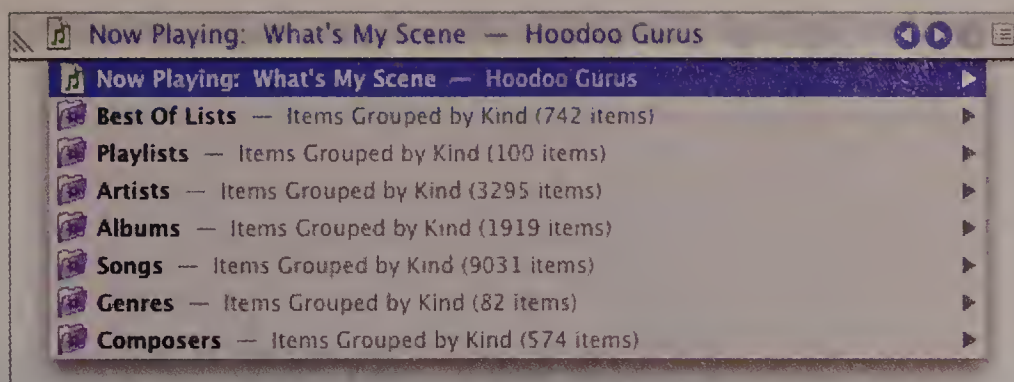
Customizable Quicksilver

I like Quicksilver because it's more than a launcher. Its features allow you to do many different tasks efficiently, and its nearly 100 plug-ins let you customize the program to fit the way you work. Here are just a few great ways to use Quicksilver:

Get Trigger-Happy If tapping a hot key and typing the first few letters of a program's name are too much work, Quicksilver gives you an additional option for quick launching. Use Quicksilver's



Quick Send With Quicksilver, you can attach and send a file without taking your hands off the keyboard or opening your e-mail program.



triggers to access a command—a keystroke, a click, or even a mouse gesture. So, for example, I could teach Quicksilver that when I draw a greater-than symbol with my mouse (>), I want to fire off the iTunes Next Track action.

To create a trigger that opens your favorite Web browser, you could select Quicksilver: Triggers and click on the plus-sign (+) button at the bottom of the window. In the menu that appears, choose HotKey. In the Item field, choose your favorite Web browser. In the Action field, choose Open, and then click on Save. Double-click on the word *None* in the Trigger column to open a drawer full of options. Click on the Hot Key field and then press the shortcut you'd like to open the browser (I use F1). Close the window. Now press the new hot key, and your browser should open. (Learn more about triggers at macworld.com/2226.)

Attach Fast Do you send a lot of attachments via e-mail? Don't bother opening your e-mail program and going through the regular rigmarole. With Quicksilver, you can press the program's shortcut, type a few letters of the file's name to select it, press tab, type em to summon the Email To action, press tab, type a few letters to bring up the contact's name, and then press return to send (see "Quick Send"). Done!

To enable this feature, you must first go to Quicksilver: Preferences and select the Enable Advanced Features option. The program will relaunch. Reopen the Preferences and click on Actions in the left-hand column. Click on Email Addresses in the Type column. Then, in the Actions column, enable Email Item (Send Directly).

If you don't see any options when you click on Email Addresses, you need to install a plug-in. Choose Quicksilver: Plugins. You'll see an Entourage 2004 Module and an Apple Mail Module. Select the appropriate one, restart Quicksilver, and then follow the previous instructions.

Plug Into Plug-ins Want to upload your photos from iPhoto to Flickr? Do so directly with the Flickr Upload plug-in. Want to compress files on-the-fly? Try the File Compression Module. Need to upload files over FTP? The Transmit plug-in makes it a breeze. Use the Plugins menu to manage and install plug-ins that interest you.—DAN DICKINSON

DAN DICKINSON is a technology analyst and the author of multiple Quicksilver tutorials on his blog (vjarmy.com). Senior Editor DAN FRAKES is *Macworld's* Mac Gems columnist and the senior reviews editor at Playlistmag.com. Senior Editor ROB GRIFFITHS runs MacOSXHints.com.

iTunes at Your Fingertips LaunchBar lets you quickly browse your iTunes library—without opening iTunes.

Clean and Protect Your iPod

Much of the iPod's aesthetic allure can be attributed to its shiny chrome back and smooth acrylic or polycarbonate front. Unfortunately, these materials—however attractive—are prone to scratches. But filing a lawsuit isn't your only recourse if you've got a well-worn iPod. Products and services are out there that can give your full-size iPod or first-generation nano a makeover.

playlist

Want more tips
on digital music?

For iPod- and iTunes-related expert advice and breaking news, as well as reviews of all the latest gadgets, check out Playlistmag.com.

Scratches Begone

If you've been less than vigilant about protecting your iPod, it probably has at least a few—if not a slew of—scratches on its back, its front (including the screen), or both. But you don't have to buy a new player just to get something resembling that out-of-the-box look—with a scratch-removal product and some elbow grease, you can banish many of those blemishes.

Regrettably, not all of these products work as well as their vendors promise, but there are some gems available. My current favorite is RadTech's \$21 Ice Creme kit (www.radtech.us), which includes two kinds of polishing solutions and two of RadTech's Optex polishing cloths.

As with most products in this category, you use the Ice Creme kit to "remove" a scratch by buffing the surrounding surfaces until they're level with the deepest part of the scratch. The most-effective scratch removers also tend to be the most abrasive, requiring subsequent treatment with more mild products that remove fine scratches left by harsher products. (For example, in the Ice Creme kit, Ice Creme A solution is the scratch remover, and B is the polisher.)

This process takes a lot of time and effort, so you shouldn't expect instant results. I recommend setting aside at least an hour—perhaps longer if your iPod is particularly beat-up. If the task seems too monotonous, you can spread it out over the course of a week,

spending 15 or 20 minutes per day. With enough applications and hard work, you can probably rid your iPod of all but the most stubborn flaws.

And remember that even the mildest scratch-removal products will still leave very faint scratches behind—if not from the solu-

iPod Bodywork

If the front of your iPod is too scratched up to fix—or if you're just bored with the traditional white or black design—consider a custom paint job. ColorWare (www.colorwarepc.com) can paint your iPod's non-chrome surfaces with one of 23 glossy finishes and apply a special scratch- and fade-resistant coating (\$64 to \$74, depending on the iPod model). There are even a few options available: \$30 to have the rear chrome surface painted, \$20 for a different Click Wheel color, \$20 to have your iPod dock painted to match, and \$20 to have your earbuds painted to match. Once painted, your music player will definitely stand out in the sea of iPods.

tion itself, then from the polishing cloth. You can't avoid these consequences completely, but you can do a couple of things to reduce their severity. First, use a soft, nonabrasive cloth—the washable Optex cloths included with RadTech's Ice Creme are available separately, as LenSavrz, for \$5 to \$15, depending on their size. Second, vary your rubbing strokes—don't use the same circular motion repeatedly or you'll end up with fine scratches in that particular pattern.

If the chrome back of your iPod is *severely* damaged—to the point where the basic Ice Creme kit doesn't have much of an effect—you can turn to RadTech's \$26 Ice Creme M, which includes the components of the basic Ice Creme kit plus an abrasive metal-refinishing pad. This pad removes the top layers of chrome, so RadTech warns that using it too often will actually thin the polished surface. And in the process of removing the worst gouges and scratches, it will leave faint swirling marks on the chrome that you'll then need to treat.

If all that work sounds like, well, too much work, you may want to check out ColorEnvy (www.coloreny.com). For \$20 (plus a \$10 shipping fee), the company offers a mail-in polishing service for full-size iPods (going back to the third-generation

RadTech's
Ice Creme M





An Ounce of Prevention

One of the best ways to prevent iPod scratches is to apply a thin transparent film to its surface.

model), iPod minis, and iPod nanos. ColorEnvy promises to “buff out the scratches and apply a high quality clear coating to your iPod front panel.” For the results of the company’s service on our test iPod, go to macworld.com/2231.

Household Remedies

You may have read online reports claiming that various home remedies—involving toothpaste or Brasso metal polish, for example—are effective at removing iPod scratches. In my testing, most dedicated scratch-removal products proved to be quite a bit more effective. Brasso shines an iPod’s chrome back impressively but doesn’t do much for scratches. Many brands of toothpaste, on the other hand, are actually *too* abrasive, causing more scratches than they remove. The one non-iPod-specific remedy that may work, depending on the product brand, is a CD scratch-repair kit, since it’s designed to do the same thing for CDs that you’re trying to do for your iPod’s exterior.

Shields Up

The best way to have an iPod that’s free of scratches is to never let them happen in the first place. So after getting rid of the blemishes—or if you’re the proud owner of a brand-new iPod—you might want to think about protection. You’ve got two choices: cases and films. A good case will prevent scratches while also protecting your iPod from bumps and blows—and with literally hundreds of iPod cases on the market, you’ve got plenty of choices. Some of my favorites for full-size iPods are Contour Design’s \$33 Showcase video (★★★★; macworld.com/1357) and iSkin’s \$35 eVo3 for iPod (★★★★; macworld.com/1573). Some good nano cases are Ava’s \$20 Smooth E (★★★★½; macworld.com/2230) and XtremeMac’s \$30 MicroWallet Leather (★★★★½; macworld.com/2229). You can check out our comprehensive list of iPod case reviews at macworld.com/2232.

The downside to cases is that they add bulk to your iPod’s svelte frame and obscure its shiny surfaces. Films, on the other hand, are thin and transparent. They offer varying degrees of protection and coverage, and they’re designed to shield your iPod from surface scratches—though not drops and knocks—while still letting it *look* like an iPod. There are many films out there; my favorites are Power Support’s Crystal Film sets (\$10 to \$16; www.powersupportusa.com) and ShieldZone’s InvisibleShields (\$20 to \$25; www.shieldzone.com). The first are flexible films that are easy to apply and reuse but cover only the front and back of your iPod. The second are quite a bit more difficult to apply (skip the printed directions and watch the video on the company’s Web site instead) but are more durable, and they protect the sides and edges of your iPod as well as the front and back. □

DAN FRAKES is a *Macworld* senior editor and the senior reviews editor at Playlistmag.com.

Better Battery Life

When Apple rolled out its latest generation of video iPods, it also brought out a software update for older fifth-generation (5G) iPods that brought some—but not all—of the new iPods’ functionality to the original models. But it turns out that one of the update’s most unheralded features is actually the most impressive one: a huge improvement in iPod battery life.

Though the original 5G iPods don’t have the new models’ super-bright screens, the latest iPod Software version does let 5G iPod owners adjust their screens’ brightness. And the under-the-hood optimizations that let the new models achieve significantly longer battery life are, it turns out, mainly in software, not hardware. Combined, these two features make the software update a much cooler deal for owners of the original 5G iPods than many people have realized.

To investigate potential battery-life improvements, I tested a 60GB 5G iPod before and after updating its software by continuously playing some TV shows purchased from the iTunes Store until the iPod’s battery gave out.

The pre-updated iPod played back episodes of *Desperate Housewives* and *Who Wants to Be a Superhero* for nearly 4 hours and 15 minutes before giving up the ghost. Not bad, and in line with what we found during our original review of these models. (Plus, it’s longer than the 3 hours of playback that Apple initially claimed for the 60GB model).

But then I updated the iPod’s software to the latest version: All of a sudden it could play for 4 hours and 53 minutes—39 minutes (around 18 percent) longer than before. And that was at maximum brightness; once I cranked down the iPod’s brightness to the halfway mark, the iPod turned into a regular Energizer Bunny. After a few hours, the battery indicator seemed to suggest that the iPod was about to die—but it was crying wolf. I stayed late at the office, and it kept running. I carried it home on the bus, and it kept running. Finally, as I sat at home eating a late dinner, the iPod ran out of juice—after an astonishing 9 hours and 10 minutes of video playback.

So here’s the moral of this story: If you’re running an original 5G iPod, don’t be sad that your software update didn’t include that nifty Search feature. Instead, be happy that your iPod’s battery life just got a free—and big—boost. And if you’re watching videos in dark environments that don’t require full brightness, turn the backlighting down. Your iPod will reward you with plenty of playback time.—JASON SNELL

Create Stunning Slide Shows

As the year winds down, why not gather your favorite photos for a retrospective slide show of the year's most momentous events—that vacation of a lifetime, your child's first day of school, the family reunion that got a little too wild. iPhoto '06 lets you add music, transitions, movement, and more to your slide shows. And when burned to DVDs, they make great gifts for distant loved ones.

iPhoto 6 has more slide-show horsepower than you probably realize. However, some of iPhoto's most interesting slide-show talents are cleverly disguised as other features. Here's how to master a few of these hidden powers and turn your favorite photos into an entertaining short movie.

Get Organized

First place the photos for your slide show in a new iPhoto album. To gather photos quickly, ⌘-click on the images in your library to select them and then click on the plus sign (+) in the lower left corner of the window to assign them to a new album. Once you've added all the photos you want, open the album and arrange them in the desired order. Don't worry if it isn't perfect; you can fine-tune the order later.

Add Titles

To give viewers a taste of your slide show's contents, add an opening title sequence. At first, iPhoto doesn't appear to let you add text boxes to photos, but it is possible. The secret is to use the greeting card designs.

Find a horizontal image in your iPhoto library to use as a background for your slide show's title image.

A Proper Introduction Use iPhoto's tools for greeting card designs to create an opening title sequence for your slide show.

Select it and click on the Card button. In the dialog box that appears, select Postcard from the top pull-down menu. Find a card design that you like, and then click on the Choose Theme button.

To add text to the front of your postcard, click on the Design icon, select a layout option that includes a text box, and then replace the placeholder text with your slide show's title (see "A Proper Introduction"). To change the text's size or font, click on the Settings button. To change the card's background color, click on the Background menu. But don't bother designing the back of the postcard—you won't be using it.

Once you've designed the postcard to your liking, go to File: Print. When the Print dialog box appears, click on the Advanced button (if the button says Standard, you're already in the Advanced view) and select the From 1 To 1 option in the Pages section. If you're running OS X 10.4, open the PDF menu and select Save PDF To iPhoto.

Wait patiently as your Mac runs through the workflow. When the Import Photos Into iPhoto dialog box appears, click on Choose Album and select your slide-show album from the pop-up menu. Click on Continue, and iPhoto places a JPEG of the postcard in your album. (If you're running an earlier version of OS X, click on the Save As PDF button and save the PDF to your desktop. Then drag the resulting PDF file into your slide-show album.) For an opening title, drag the new graphic to the front of the album. Repeat this process for any other titles you'd like.

Create Your Slide Show

To turn your photos into a slide show, click on the album's name—making sure no individual images are selected—and then click on the Slideshow button at the bottom of the iPhoto window. iPhoto creates a new Slideshow project at the bottom of the Source window and displays your first slide.

Click on the Settings icon to set your slide show's parameters. Decide how long you want to play each slide. I recommend three seconds per image as a starting point (you can customize the timing of individual images later). Then choose a transition, such



as Dissolve. Turn on the Repeat Music During Slideshow option and turn off all of the remaining options. That's right—the key to stunning slide shows is *not* including any of these options in your presentation (see “Keep It Simple”).

Now choose the presentation format. I recommend 4:3 for playback on standard TVs, and 16:9 for viewing on wide-screen TVs. When in doubt, choose 4:3 because it's guaranteed to work on all TVs. Once you're done, click on OK.

Fine-Tune Slides

You've set the global parameters for your presentation, and now you can customize individual slides and transitions to your liking. Here are some possibilities.

Add Motion iPhoto's Ken Burns Effect lets you direct the viewer's eye by panning across a photo (for example, to focus on individual members one by one in a group shot) or by zooming in or out of the photo (for example, to transition slowly from a close-up shot of one person to a wide-angle shot of the entire group).

The secret to the Ken Burns Effect is to use it sparingly—a long succession of moving images can disorient viewers. To put one of your photos in motion, select it from the thumbnail bar along the top and then select the Ken Burns Effect option at the bottom of the window. With the Ken Burns Effect toggle set to Start, use the zoom slider (in the lower right corner) to determine how much of your image is visible at the beginning of the effect. Click and drag the image to reposition it within the frame. Click on End and set the final position of the image. iPhoto will automatically move from the Start to the End positions.

Put Your Titles in Motion

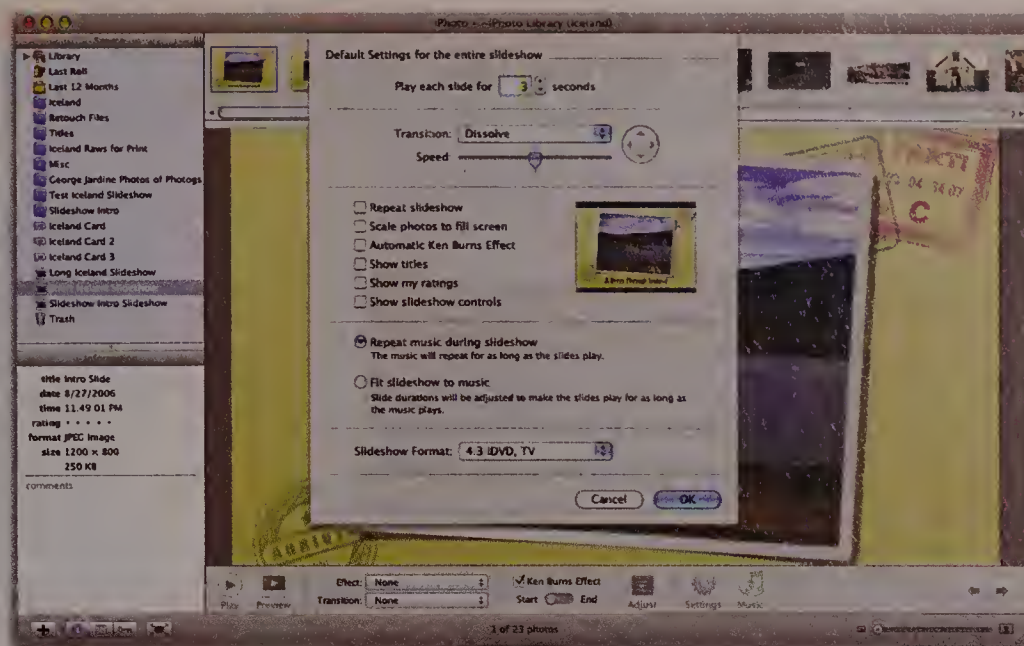
Want to really show off your opening titles? Here's a little trick: zoom out and then hold the frame for a second or two to give viewers time to read.

Step 1 Click on your title slide and select Photos: Duplicate. iPhoto will create a copy of your original graphic. Drag the duplicate to the right of the original title in the slide show's timeline.

Step 2 Click on the first title slide and turn on the Ken Burns Effect option. Zoom in slightly for the Start position, then pull out to full size for the End position. Choose None from the Transition pop-up menu.

Step 3 Click on the second title slide and use the Adjust panel to set the duration to two seconds. Select the Dissolve transition. Don't use the Ken Burns Effect.

Step 4 Select the first title slide and click on the Preview button. The show will pull out to reveal the title slide, and then hold it for two seconds before moving to the first photo in the slide show.



To preview your handiwork, click on Preview. If you decide you don't like the effect, simply turn off the Ken Burns Effect option.

Slow Down If the effect moves a little too quickly, or if you just want to give viewers more time to appreciate a particular photo, you can adjust a slide's timing. With the slide selected, click on Adjust and increase the Play This Slide For setting.

Crop Even if you're not using the Ken Burns effect, you may want to zoom in on an image. To do this, move the zoom slider to the right until you have the desired amount of magnification. Click on the image and drag it into position. iPhoto will remember these settings for the slide show without altering your original photo.

Add Music

Once you're happy with the slide show's visual aspects, it's time to add music. Since iPhoto doesn't offer any tools for editing audio, you'll get the best results by matching the length of the song with the duration of the show. To get an accurate run time, use a stopwatch or software such as Apimac's free Timer (www.apimac.com/timer).

Once you know how much time you have to fill, click on the Music button and browse your iTunes library for a song that's approximately the same length. To sort your music library quickly according to song length, click once on the Time heading.

Once you've made your selection, click on OK and play the slide show to see how closely the images match the music. You may have to add or remove a few slides to get perfect synchronization. You can also make minor adjustments by changing the play time for individual slides.

Share Your Masterpiece

Want to share your new slide show with family and friends? While iPhoto offers many options for saving your slide show, one of the most elegant—especially if you're giving it as a gift—is to burn it to a DVD. The finished DVD will play on a Mac, a Windows PC, or, even better, a DVD player attached to a TV.

continues

Keep It Simple

Although the Settings dialog box offers lots of options for jazzing up your slide show, you'll get the best results by turning off most of them and applying special effects individually to a small number of slides.

Advanced Slide-Show Creators

If you feel a little constrained by iPhoto's slide-show tools and want more control, check out these advanced options.

FotoMagico

Although a bit pricey, this slide-show program offers robust pan and zoom tools (including the ability to rotate the image while zooming), enables high-resolution output, and does a better job of syncing your slides to music. The program even integrates with iPhoto and iTunes, and can export a version of your slide show for viewing on an iPod.

Best For: Photographers who want to build dynamic presentations they can export to any format, from HD TVs to iPods. **Price:** \$79

Company: Boinx Software, www.fotomagico.com

Apimac Slide Show

This easy-to-use slide-show-authoring tool turns your movie into a standalone application that can play on Windows and Mac computers. Apimac

walks you through four windows that let you select images, add music, incorporate presentation controls, select the background, and even open a URL at the end of the slide show.

Best For: Photographers who want to create presentations for distribution on optical media. **Price:** Professional Edition, \$50 **Company:** Apimac, www.apimac.com.

iMovie HD 6

If you want more precise control over your slide show's soundtrack and synchronization, or if you'd like to incorporate video clips with your photos, iMovie offers tight iPhoto integration and powerful editing tools. And chances are good that you already have it, so you won't have to spend any extra money.

Best For: iLife owners who crave more-powerful editing controls or who want to include video. **Price:** As part of iLife '06, \$79 **Company:** Apple Computer, www.apple.com.

To export your presentation to iDVD, select Share: Send To iDVD. The process may take some time, so be patient. (If you used a song from the iTunes Store, Apple will warn you against using it in your slide show. However, the music will still play on the finished DVD.) Once the handoff is complete, you'll see the default iDVD project template with a link to your slide show included.

Before you burn the disc, take some time to customize your project. Although there are many more options than I have space to cover, here are some of the most important steps to take.

Set Your Slide-Show Preferences The first thing you should do is go to iDVD: Preferences and click on the Slideshow tab.

TVs tend to enlarge slide shows, and as a result they may cut off the edge of your images. To prevent this from happening, select the Always Scale Slides To TV Safe Area option. To see the TV-safe area for your project, choose Show TV Safe Area from the View menu. The unshaded area is what TV viewers will see.

If your music runs longer than your slide show, the Fade Volume Out At The End Of Slideshow option can resolve the problem.

Just Like Hollywood

Many of iDVD's menu templates include sophisticated motion effects.



Add High-Res Files If you want your DVD recipients to be able to make prints from the images in the presentation, you'll need to include the original files on the DVD. Select Advanced: Edit DVD-ROM Contents. In the DVD-ROM Contents dialog box, create a new folder to hold the images. Switch to iPhoto, open the album containing your slide show's images, and press ⌘-A to select them all. Drag the selected photos into the folder in iDVD's DVD-ROM Contents dialog box. Recipients will be able to access the high-resolution versions by double-clicking on the DVD icon that appears on their computer, and opening the DVD-ROM Contents folder.

Choose a Theme Next, choose a theme for your DVD's opening menu. This is the first thing viewers will see when they pop in the DVD. With the Theme button selected, choose one of the options on the right side of the project pane (see "Just Like Hollywood"). Once you've chosen a theme and replaced the placeholder text, click on the Menu button to add photos or video to the theme's drop zones, and to set the volume of the background music. Now click on Buttons and select the Free Positioning option. This allows you to reposition your slide show's button anywhere on screen—just make sure it remains in the TV-safe area.

Test It You can check your work by pressing the Play button. Your Mac will simulate DVD playback, complete with a controller. If everything looks good, click on Exit to return to the project pane.

Burn the Disc You're now ready to burn your DVD. Select File: Burn DVD and follow the prompts. Depending on how long your slide show is, the burning process may take quite a while—mine took about 20 minutes. When it's done, iDVD will ask if you want to burn a second disc. If you don't, simply save your project and quit iDVD. □

DERRICK STORY is a professional photographer, author, and teacher. For more photo tips, listen to his weekly podcast at www.thedigitalstory.com.



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Troubleshooting MacBooks

Apple's latest laptops, the MacBook and the MacBook Pro, are among the company's more controversial hardware releases. When Apple put them on the market, both were justly lauded for their superb performance but just as loudly criticized for flawed batteries, overheating, and other glitches. If you've been having problems with either model, we have tips for working around the worst of them.

Energy Alternatives

The MacBook and the MacBook Pro pack much better performance than their predecessors into roughly the same svelte, one-inch-thick case design. But faster processors—even energy-efficient ones like Intel's—require more power to operate, and that means more heat. Those power requirements and that heat have inspired complaints about subpar battery life and overheating. Some tried-and-true battery-management tricks should help with both.

While Apple claims that the 15-inch MacBook Pro can get 4.5 hours of use per battery charge, real-world battery life can be much shorter. To extend that life, open the Energy Saver preference pane, choose Battery from the Settings For pop-up menu, and change the Optimization setting to Better Battery Life. That will enable several options at once, such as Put The Display To Sleep When It Is Inactive For 1 Minute and Reduced Processor Performance. Everyday tasks may run a bit more slowly, but

you probably won't notice it much. If you've opted to show the battery status in the menu bar, you can click on that icon and select the power setting you want.

While you're poking around in the Energy Saver pane, enable the Put The Hard Disk(s) To Sleep When Possible option; spinning those platters burns power, too. You can also dim the screen: use the F1 key, or open the Displays preference pane and adjust the Brightness slider. You can also disable the Displays pane option that automatically adjusts the screen's brightness depending on ambient light. And if you don't need them, turn off AirPort (click on the menu bar's AirPort icon and select Turn AirPort Off) or Bluetooth (via the Bluetooth preference pane).

To get the most out of your battery, you should condition it at least once a month. To do so, run your laptop until the machine puts itself to sleep, and then plug in the power adapter and recharge the battery to its fullest. This is an especially good idea if you usually work with your laptop plugged into an outlet.

Unfortunately, even pampered batteries lose capacity over time. To find out if yours is waning, periodically check it with a utility like Christoph Sinai's coconutBattery (payment requested; macworld.com/2296), which can track battery capacity over time (see "How Much Juice?"). If you notice that your battery is holding less and less juice, you might need to replace it.

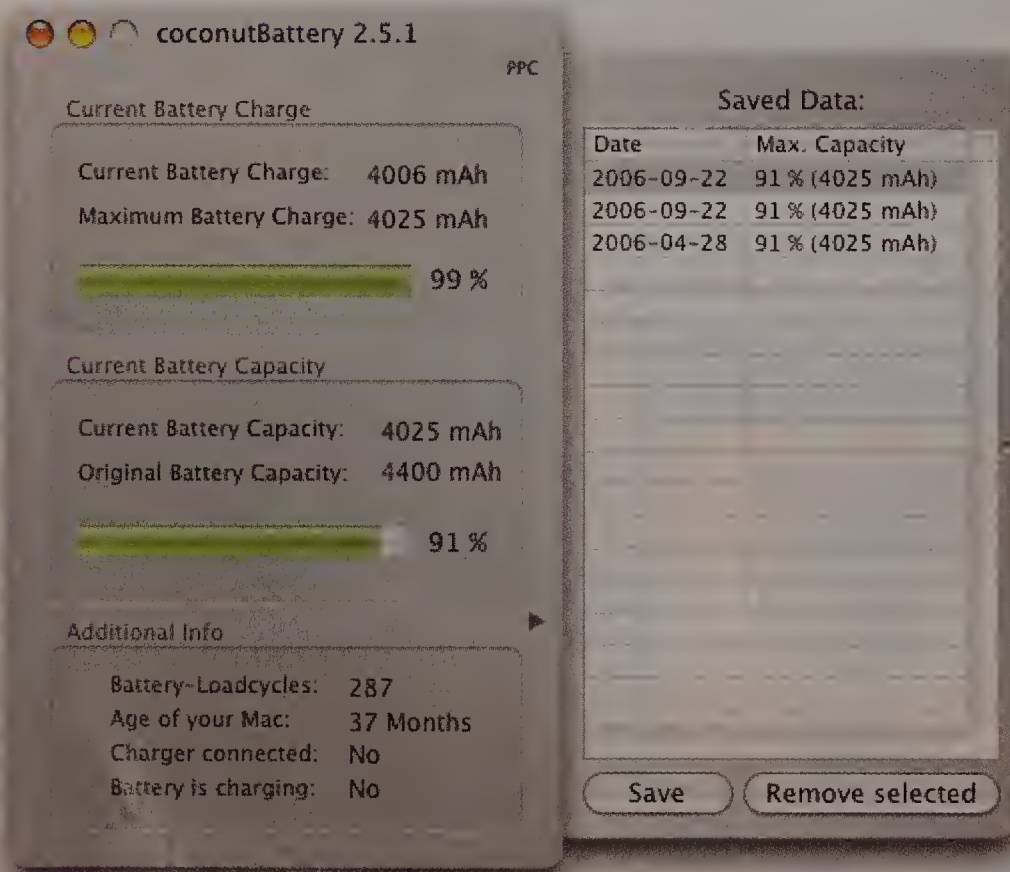
Turn Down the Heat

The Second Rule of Laptop Thermodynamics says that your fingers will never go numb with cold while you're working, because today's portables get almost too hot to touch. MacBooks and MacBook Pros, especially, seem to heat up when the processor is very active and when you're charging the battery. But before you reach for asbestos gloves, there are a couple of things you can do to try to keep the heat down.

If you haven't done so already in an effort to prolong your battery's life, try reducing the processor speed in the Energy Saver preference pane. Also, be judicious about running processor-intensive applications when you're using your laptop on your lap.

How Much Juice?

Christoph Sinai's coconutBattery not only checks to see how much battery power you have left, but also checks to see how much charge it can hold.



If you think your portable is getting hotter than it should, you can easily take its temperature. Marcel Bresink's free Temperature Monitor (macworld.com/2297) reports what the internal temperature sensors are reading. Another free option is Macbricol's CoreDuoTemp, which monitors just the temperature of the Intel Core Duo processor (macworld.com/2298). There are ways to hack your laptop so its fans run faster, but I'm not prepared to endorse them just yet.

To avoid charring your legs, look into purchasing a laptop stand or a riser such as Road Tools' Podium CoolPad (\$30; www.roadtools.com), which lifts the computer and allows air to flow underneath. A wooden board or a paper notebook works well when you just need a surface while sitting on the couch or in bed.

Error Messages

No matter how much you tweak and accessorize your MacBook or MacBook Pro, you may still have one of the problems that have been plaguing both laptops



Stupid Laptop Tricks

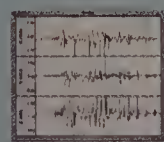
The MacBook and the MacBook Pro include a gizmo that Apple calls the Sudden Motion Sensor. As its name implies, it detects abrupt movement—such as the sudden downward acceleration that happens when you drop your laptop—and when it does, it parks the hard drive heads to help prevent disk damage. It didn't take long for a few intrepid developers to write utilities (all but one of them free) that take advantage of the Sudden Motion Sensor for almost entirely useless—but fun—purposes.



Bubblegym Balooba Software's game (payment requested) turns your expensive laptop into the digital equivalent of one of those old wooden games filled with metal balls that you had to roll into holes by tilting the game board—possibly a computer-game first (macworld.com/2259).



MacSaber Undoubtedly, the first thing you thought when you brought that new laptop home was "Gee, I wonder if I can use this as a lightsaber?" MacSaber, by isnoop, liberates your inner Jedi Knight, providing appropriate sound effects as you thrust and parry with your laptop (isnoop.net).



SeisMac Is that a truck outside, or is it an earthquake? This app from Suitable Systems turns your motion-sensitive Mac into a seismograph (macworld.com/2261).

SmackBook Pro Erling Ellingsen's clever hack lets you switch between active desktops simply by tapping the side of the computer. The Web site is home to plenty of inspired variations, too (macworld.com/2258).

since they were introduced. Some have been solved; a few, unfortunately, have not.

Defective Batteries (MacBook Pro) When reports about problems with the MacBook Pro's batteries began to surface, safety risks weren't to blame; instead, some batteries simply weren't performing well. Apple has set up a replacement program; see macworld.com/2254. (Don't confuse the MacBook Pro battery issue with the problem that afflicted some PowerBook G4 and iBook G4 portables: Apple has recalled millions of lithium-ion batteries manufactured by Sony and used in those machines, due to the danger of overheating and possible combustion. See macworld.com/2253 for details.)

Random Shutdowns (MacBook) There were widely reported incidents of MacBooks spontaneously turning themselves off. At first, the problem appeared to have something to do with the logic board—an issue Apple was aware of. But online reports indicate that swapping out the logic board doesn't always solve the problem. Other users reported that it happened primarily when running Windows (using Boot Camp or Parallels). In any case, if this is happening to you, be sure to download the latest SMC firmware (macworld.com/2299)—an update in October 2006 addressed the shutdown problem.

ExpressCard Prevents Sleep (MacBook Pro) Sometimes, the laptop won't go to sleep if you've inserted a card into the ExpressCard slot. ExpressCard Update 1.0 (macworld.com/2256) solves this problem.

Yellowing Palmrest (MacBook) Soon after they began shipping, some white MacBooks started exhibiting an odd yellowness on either side of the trackpad. Apple said it was caused by a manufacturing defect and offered to replace affected cases. (For more details, see macworld.com/2257.) □

JEFF CARLSON is the author of *iMovie HD 6 and iDVD 6 for Mac OS X: Visual QuickStart Guide* (Peachpit Press, 2006).

3 Amazing AppleScripts

For simple automation, it's hard to beat Automator. But if you want to build truly powerful workflows that can do everything from coloring your iCal calendars to converting your e-mail messages for easy reading on your iPod, AppleScript is still the best tool in town. Armed only with Apple's Script Editor (/Applications/AppleScript) and these three cool scripts, you'll be amazed at what you can do.

After entering a script in the Script Editor window, choose File: Save, and save the script in the /Library/Scripts folder. You can also download all these scripts from macworld.com/2274.

1. Color Your Calendars

Using multiple calendars in iCal is a good idea—that way, you can easily figure out which events are urgent (because they're in your Critical Projects calendar) and which are optional (because they're in your New Movie Releases calendar). The problem is, iCal has only seven calendar colors—if you have more than seven calendars, iCal uses these colors multiple times, making it hard to differentiate your calendars at a glance.

Luckily, iCal allows you to script the colors of your calendars—so even if you have 100 calendars, no two will look alike (see “All the Colors of the Rainbow”). Here's the script:

```

-Part 1:
tell application "iCal"
    set numberOfCalendars to (count every
calendar)
-Part 2:
repeat with currentNumber from 1 to

```

```

numberOfCalendars
    set calendarColors to (the color of
every calendar)
-Part 3:
    set redValue to random number 65535
    set greenValue to random number 65535
    set blueValue to random number 65535
-Part 4:
    repeat until calendarColors does not
contain {{redValue, greenValue,
blueValue}}
        set redValue to random number 65535
        set greenValue to random number 65535
        set blueValue to random number 65535
    end repeat
-Part 5:
    set the color of calendar currentNumber
to {redValue, greenValue, blueValue}
end repeat
end tell

```

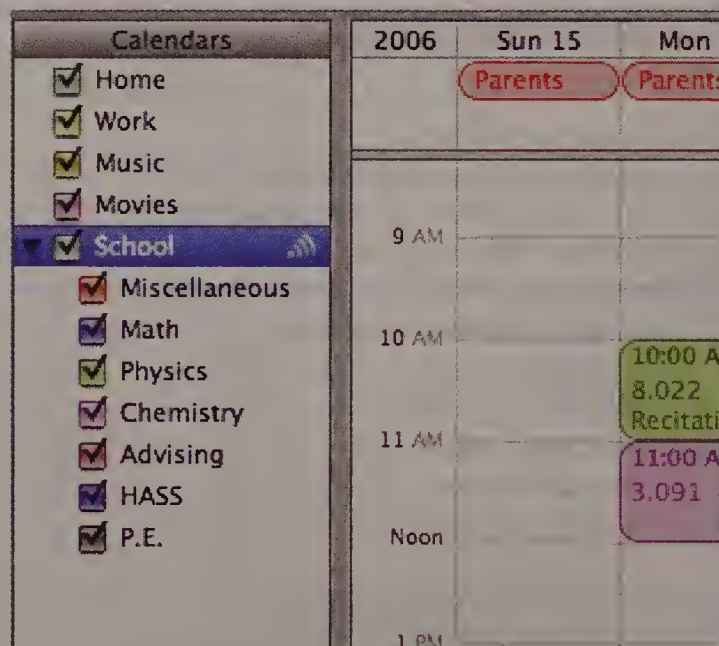
Part 1 of the script counts the number of calendars you have in iCal, and stores the result in the numberOfCalendars variable. Part 2 tells AppleScript to go through your calendars, one at a time, and set calendarColors to the color of each calendar. Part 3 generates three random numbers that represent the red, green, and blue color channels. A value of 0 means “add none of this color,” and a value of 65535 means “add as much of this color into the mix as you can.” By generating a random value for each color channel, your script can produce trillions of colors.

Part 4 ensures that the randomly chosen color isn't already taken by an existing calendar. If necessary, the script generates random colors until it finds one that isn't taken already.

Part 5 sets the color of the current calendar to the randomly chosen color generated in Parts 3 and 4. Then the script jumps back to Part 2, restarting the process for the next calendar.

Once the script has finished running, look at the colors in iCal and see if they suit your fancy. If not, run the script again—it'll generate a whole new set of colors.

All the Colors of the Rainbow Do you have more calendars than iCal has colors? Spice things up—and make the calendars distinguishable at a glance—with randomly generated colors.





TRY THIS

2. See the Source

When you're studying HTML or JavaScript, it can be very helpful to learn by example—that is, by reading the source code of existing Web sites. This script saves the source code of the current Safari page as a separate file in your Documents folder, and then opens the file in the program you choose:

```

-Part 1:
tell application "Safari"
    set siteName to the name of document 1
    set siteSource to the source of document 1
-Part 2:
    set theFile to open for access
("/Users/your user name/Documents/" &
siteName & ".html") as POSIX file with
write permission
    set eof of theFile to 0
    write siteSource to theFile
    close access theFile
end tell
-Part 3:
    set theApp to (choose application)
    tell application (theApp as string)
-Part 4:
        activate
        open ("/Users/your user name/
Documents/" siteName & ".html") as POSIX
file
    end tell

```

Here's how it works. Part 1 asks for the name and the source code of the current Web page and then stores that information in the `siteName` and `siteSource` variables, respectively. Part 2 tells AppleScript to create a new file in your Documents folder, naming the file after the current Web page. (Be sure to replace the two instances of *your user name* with your actual user name.) AppleScript then writes the source code of the Web page into the new file on your hard drive. Finally, the script closes access to the new file, telling OS X that the file is no longer being edited.

Part 3 opens a dialog box where you can choose a program to open the file. The script then sends all subsequent commands to that program. (If you intend to use TextEdit to open the file, you should first go to TextEdit's Preferences, click on the Open And Save tab, and select the Ignore Rich Text Commands In HTML Files option. That way, TextEdit won't try to format the file.)

Part 4 brings the program you selected to the foreground and instructs it to open the source-code file. From there, you're free to learn from the HTML or edit it to your liking.

3. Read New E-mail on Your iPod

Most people never use the iPod's Notes feature (available in third-generation and newer iPods) for anything more sophisticated than shopping lists. But there's no

Quick Web Trick

Find yourself regularly editing HTML, CSS, and JavaScript files on your Web server? Save time by setting up your FTP software to launch your editing program whenever you double-click on files with specific extensions. When using Stairways Software's \$60 Interarchy 8.2 (★★★★½; macworld.com/2309), you select an HTML file, choose Listing: Get Info, and in the Get Info window, choose Edit With *program name* from the Double Click Action For Files Like This pop-up menu. If you use Fetch Softworks' \$25 Fetch 5.1 (★★★★; macworld.com/0657), then you select an HTML file, choose Remote: Get Info, select the Edit The File radio button, and choose a program from the Edit Files Like This With pop-up menu. If you use Panic's \$25 Transmit 3.5 (★★★★½; macworld.com/0657), then open Transmit: Preferences, click on General, and set the Double-Click action to Edit In External Editor.—ADAM C. ENGST

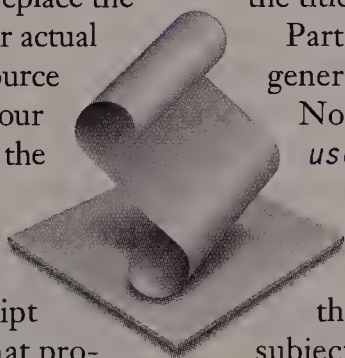


reason you shouldn't be able to read new e-mail on your iPod—and that's what this script does with Apple Mail messages. The script itself is too long to reproduce in print. (Please download it from macworld.com/2274.) But a notation of the script follows here.

Part 1 of the script creates a Mail Notes folder on the desktop (if one doesn't exist already), and deletes any existing items in the folder. Part 2 generates a list of all unread messages in your inbox (`newMessages`), and puts aside a variable (`subjectList`) to hold the subject line of each message. Part 3 goes through each unread message and generates a note for it—including the sender, the subject, the date, and the message's content. (The "<TITLE>" section indicates that the subject line of the e-mail message should be used as the title of the iPod note.)

Part 4 creates new files that contain the text generated in Part 3, and puts them in the Mail Notes folder. (Make sure to replace *your user name* with your actual user name, both here and in Part 6.) The first new file is named 1.txt, the second is named 2.txt, and so on. Part 5 updates the `subjectList` variable to contain the subject line of the current message. In other words, by the time Part 5 is done running, the `subjectList` variable will contain a list of every new message's subject line.

Part 6 creates a new file—0.txt. This holds the list of all new mail messages. Now all you have to do is copy the notes from the Mail Notes folder on your desktop to your iPod's Notes folder. Then use your iPod to navigate to the New Mail Messages note, and you'll see a list of all your unread messages—complete with clickable links to each one. □



ADAM GOLDSTEIN is the author of *AppleScript: The Missing Manual* and a coauthor of *Switching to the Mac: The Missing Manual* (both O'Reilly, 2005). He's also a freshman at MIT.

Mac OS X Hints

The Insiders' Tips You Won't Get from Apple

Use a Stand-Alone URL Downloader

Have you ever wished for a quick way to download something *without* waiting for your Web browser to launch first? For instance, perhaps you, like me, receive a lot of e-mail messages that include URLs for downloading software. In Mac OS X 10.4.7 or later, there's a built-in way to skip the launch time *and* keep track of everything you've downloaded; it's a stand-alone application that does nothing more than accept dragged URLs and download files to your desktop.

In the Finder, navigate to /System/Library/CoreServices, and then scroll down until you see the program named VerifiedDownloadAgent. Now drag that application to another spot on your hard drive—the Applications folder, or anywhere else you'd like to store a copy. Your user account doesn't have the necessary rights to modify the System folder, so the Finder will automatically create a copy of the application when you drag it. The original will remain safely in its current location.

When Apple updates this application (currently at version 1), you'll have to copy it again to get the newest version. To avoid that hassle, you can make an alias instead (⌘-option-drag the original file to a new location to create an alias).

Now go to the spot where you saved your copy and rename VerifiedDownloadAgent something more friendly—I called mine Downloader. If you want to get fancy, you could paste in a custom icon in place of the generic one the application uses (see “Download It”). I used the Downloads Folder icon

from the Iconfactory's free Amora icon collection (macworld.com/2268). Once you're done, drag the application to the Dock or to the Finder's sidebar or toolbar so it's easily accessible. Launch it and leave it running all the time; then drag and drop any download URLs you receive into its window or onto its Dock icon for quick downloading without launching your Web browser.

Delete Stubborn Files

We've all encountered a stubborn file that just won't delete. Yes, there are third-party programs you can use, such as Marco Balestra's handy and free Super Empty Trash (macworld.com/2269). Or you could dive into Terminal and use the `rm -rf` command to try to remove the file. Of course, if you mess up with that, you might erase your hard drive (see “Command-Line Life-savers” at macworld.com/2270). Here's one more thing you can try: It may seem time-consuming, but this method is very safe (much safer than the Unix Terminal solution) and will work on files that seem immune to all other attempts.

Start by creating a new user in the Accounts preference pane. It doesn't really matter what name or access level you give the new account; it's going to have a very short life. Once the account is created, move the troublesome file from the Trash into the /Users/Shared folder.

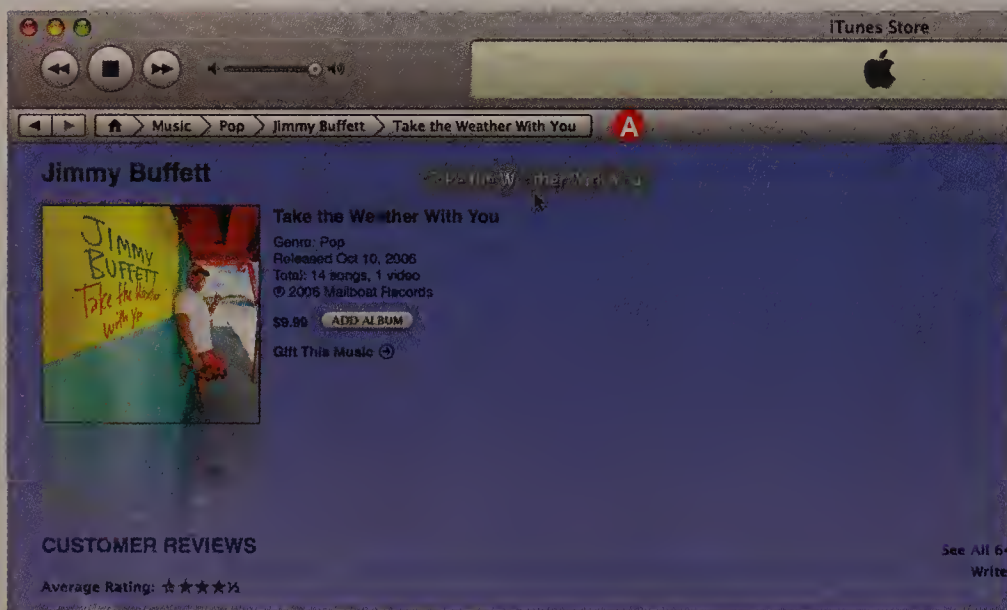
Now go to the Apple menu and choose Log Out *user name* and then log in as the new user. Open the /Users/Shared folder, and move the troublesome file into the new user's Trash. (You might have to type your administrator name and password.)

Now log out of the new account and then log in to your main account. Return to the Accounts preference pane, select the account you just created, and click on the minus sign (–), or just press the delete key. A dialog box will appear, asking you if you're sure you want to do this. Of the three options—Cancel, OK, and Delete Immediately—select Delete Immediately.



Download It You can easily create your own miniature download application—useful for those times when you just need to download a file from a URL. Here, I've given the program a special icon.

Tear-Away Tabs If you want to e-mail someone a link to a specific location from the iTunes Store, just drag and drop the link into a new message. You can even drag the store's navigation tabs. Click and drag one to an application such as Mail or TextEdit (in Rich Text mode), and it will turn into a clickable link **A**.



Peek into Zip Archives

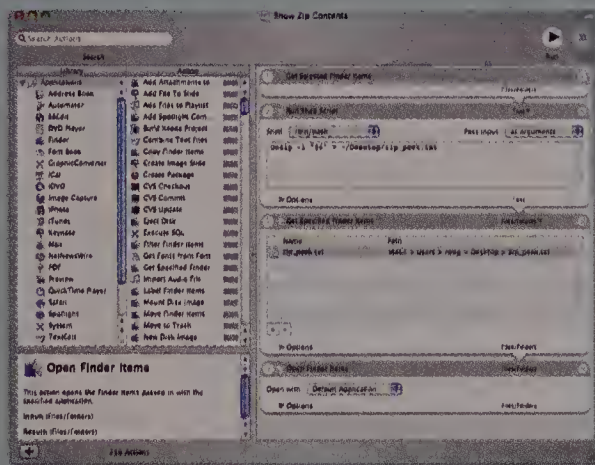
What do downloads from MacUpdate.com and VersionTracker.com have in common with collections of files you get from far-flung coworkers? They all are probably compressed with the Zip compression algorithm. You may want to look into these archives *before* you expand them, on the off chance, for example, that a coworker accidentally sent you 1,500 files instead of 150. You can do this by using third-party tools, such as Allume System's \$80 Stuffit Deluxe 11 (www.stuffit.com) or Dragan Milic's \$18 Springy (www.springyarchiver.com). But you can also do it yourself for free.

Start by launching Automator (/Applications). You're going to create a fairly simple four-step Automator workflow that will list the contents of Zip archives without expanding them (see "X-ray Vision"). Click on Finder in the Library column. Then click on Get Selected Finder Items in the Action column and drag it to the workflow space. Next, click on Automator in the Library column. Then click on Run Shell Script in the Action column and drag it to the workflow below Get Selected Finder Items. Set the action's Shell pop-up menu to /bin/bash. Set the Pass Input pop-up menu to As Arguments. Erase any text in the action's work area, and then type this command (or copy and paste it from macworld.com/2282):

```
unzip -l "$@" > ~/Desktop/zip_peek.txt
```

You can replace the path and file name, but don't change any code to the left of those. Here's what the code does: The `unzip` command examines the contents of the selected Finder item and the `-l` tells `unzip` to list the

archive's contents without extracting them. The `"$@"` is a variable that represents the name of the selected Finder item, surrounded by quotes (in case the file name includes spaces). The `>` routes the output of the previous command to the specified file. You've provided the path to the file where the command will put the information (the `~` is a shortcut for *your user folder*).



X-ray Vision Using an Automator script, you can peek inside Zip archives without actually expanding them.

Next, click on Finder in Automator's Library column. Select the Get Specified Finder Items in the Action column and drag it below the Run Shell Script action. Switch to Terminal (/Applications/Utilities) and type `touch ~/Desktop/zip_peek.txt`. This will create an empty file in the proper location. Quit Terminal and switch back to Automator. Click on the plus sign (+) in the Get Specified Finder Items window and navigate to the file you just created. Click on OK.

Click on Finder in the Library column. Select Open Finder Items in the Action column and drag it to the end of the workflow. Leave the Open With pop-up menu set to Default Application.

Select File: Save As Plug-in. In the dialog box that appears, enter a name for your workflow. Make sure that the Plug-in For pop-up menu is set to Finder, and then click on Save. Now control-click on any Zip archive in the Finder and choose Automator: Show Zip Contents from the contextual menu. This workflow can be used on only one file at a time—it won't work if you have two or more Zip archives selected. Feel free to delete the `zip_peek.txt` file. The workflow will create it when necessary.

The troublesome file (along with the new user account and the disk space it used) will disappear. (If you had pressed OK instead, the files from the deleted user account would continue to reside on your drive.)

iTunes Store Time-Savers

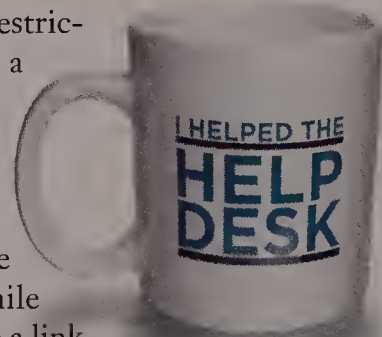
The iTunes Store is basically a customized Web browser within the iTunes program. When you click on an object in the store, you're clicking on a hyper-

link on a Web page. But the store has some restrictions that make it not quite as nice to use as a regular browser. For instance, you can't use tabs to open multiple iTunes Store pages at once. Nor can you create bookmarks to content that you'd like to revisit regularly.

Despite these limitations, there are some browser-like things you can do to save time while shopping. You can, for instance, drag and drop a link from the iTunes window into another application's window—iChat, for example—to quickly create a link to that object in the store. You can even do the drag-and-drop trick with the navigational tabs at the top of the iTunes window (see "Tear-Away Tabs").

And here's one more trick—you can quickly jump back (or forward) through the highlights of your browsing history by clicking on and holding either the left or right arrow buttons at the top of the iTunes Store window. When you do, a pop-up window appears, from which you can quickly jump to any of the major pages between the store's home page and the currently viewed page.

This feature makes it easy to jump around within the store without having to move back or forward a screen at a time. □



Have a hint? Go to MacOSX-Hints.com to share it. This column was based on tips from Elijah Gould, Venu Keesari, Joel Rorabaugh, and anonymous contributors. Each month, the author of our favorite tip receives the *Help Desk* mug.

WHAT'S ONLINE

> Banish Subfolders with Spotlight

Use Spotlight to quickly group scattered files. macworld.com/2271

> Extend Front Row's Reach

Do you have movies on other drives that you wish Front Row knew about? Here's a simple way to make it happen. macworld.com/2272

> Find Empty iTunes Song Data Fields

Use Smart Playlists to help you track down empty data fields. macworld.com/2273

> Scroll Images in Tiger's Preview

Move around big images in Preview more easily. macworld.com/2346

Senior Editor ROB GRIFFITHS runs MacOSXHints.com.

Mac 911

Solutions to Your Most Vexing Mac Problems

Smarter Mail Filters

I get a lot of e-mail from marketers and PR firms. Because these messages come from both new senders as well as usual suspects, there's no way to build an Apple Mail rule that's based on senders that will automatically route the messages to a separate PR mailbox. Any suggestions for building a reliable filter?

Via the Internet

I once handled this problem with a Mail rule that directed messages from known flacks to a special Marketing mailbox. Whenever I received a promotional e-mail from a new source, I added the portion of the address after the @ symbol (so the rule would catch all e-mail sent from that PR firm) to the rule. But this rule became unwieldy because it had way too many conditions.

What I needed was a way to define a class of senders and then use that definition in my rule. And the best way to define a group of senders is to create a group in Address Book. Unfortunately, adding the name of a Mail message's sender to an Address Book group is a pain. It requires opening the message, clicking on the name in the To field, adding the name to Address Book, opening Address Book, and then dragging the contact into the group.

Entourage (which is now my main e-mail client) makes the whole process much easier. First, I created a new Entourage Address Book category, Marketing Flack, and a rule that tells Entourage to move any messages from individuals in the Marketing Flack

category to my Marketing Flack mailbox. When a previously unknown marketer flings a press release my way, I select the message and press ⌘= (equal sign) to add that individual to my Entourage Address Book. I then go to the Categories pop-up menu and add that contact to the Marketing Flack category. When I close Entourage's Address Book window, that person joins the ranks of marketers, and any future correspondence from him or her will be automatically shunted to the Marketing Flack mailbox.

The Stand-Alone Widget

Is there any way to run a widget outside of Dashboard? I have a widget that I use all the time, and I'd really rather not have to keep hitting F12 to launch Dashboard every time I need it.

R. Gordon Hershey

Check out Mesa Dynamics' \$10 Amnesty Singles (macworld.com/2241), which converts widgets into stand-alone apps. You just locate the widget you want to convert (in the /Library/Widgets or *your user folder*/Library/Widgets folder) and drag it into Amnesty Singles' window. Then click on the Build button and select a location for your new widget-application, and Amnesty Singles will turn the widget into an application you can run like any other, without invoking Dashboard. (For Senior Editor Dan Frakes's take on Amnesty Singles, see macworld.com/2286.)

Other utilities—I'm thinking of Marcel Bresink's free TinkerTool (www.bresink.com) or Titanium Software's just-as-free OnyX (macworld.com/1667)—can move widgets from Dashboard, but they don't truly put widgets on the desktop; the widgets continue to float above the desktop in a widget-y layer. If that's fine by you, check them out, too.

Terminating Test Drive

My Power Mac G5 was running slow, so I decided to run a maintenance utility that does things like throw out cache and log files. A couple of days after doing this, I tried to open a Microsoft Excel document by double-clicking on it. When I did, the test-drive version of Excel launched rather than the real one. What happened, and how can I make things go back to the way they were?

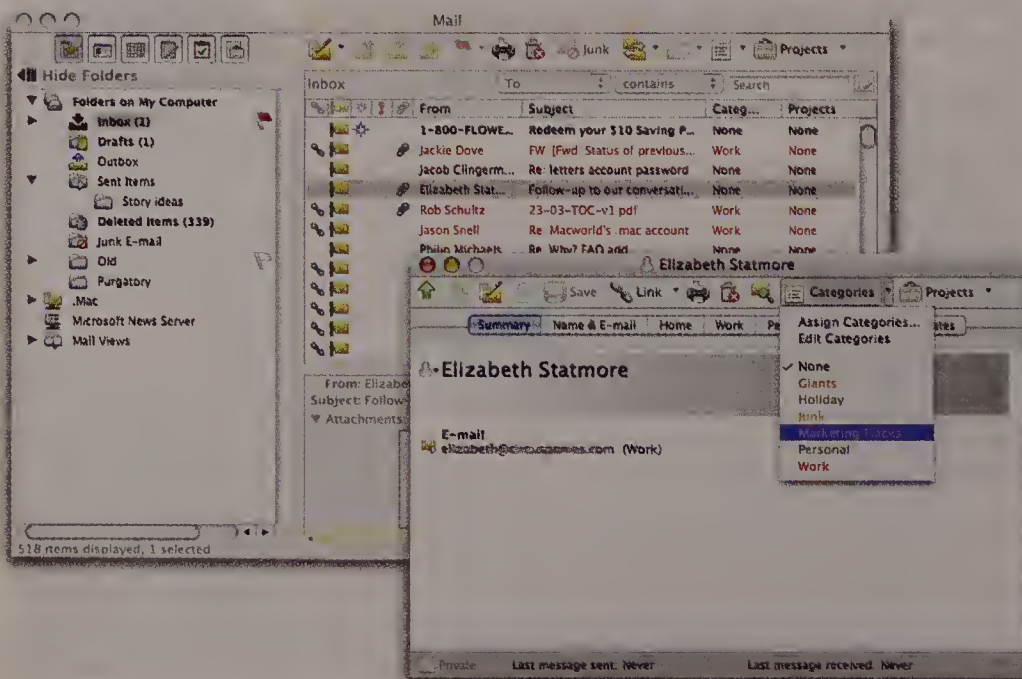
Damon Tee

It's likely the utility reset OS X's LaunchServices database, which keeps track of your Open With preferences.

Work with the

Group

Adding a sender to a group lets you quickly shunt future messages from that person to a specific mailbox.



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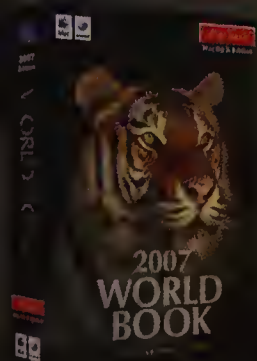
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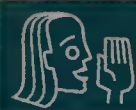
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TIP OF THE MONTH

Smarter Smart Playlists

I was trying to create an iTunes smart playlist that would contain all of the house, techno, and dance tracks in my iTunes library that had ratings of three stars or higher. But iTunes doesn't support the Boolean operators AND and OR in defining a playlist. Then it dawned on me that I could solve the problem by using one playlist as the basis for another.

I first created a smart playlist called Dance Music that contained all tracks with the House, Techno, or Dance genre tag, using the conditions Match Any, Genre Contains House, Genre Contains Techno, and Genre Contains Dance. I then created a second new smart playlist with the conditions Playlist Is Dance Music and My Rating Is Greater Than 2 Stars. With those two playlists, I got the results I was after.

Drew Long

erences. When you reset it, your preferences are gone, and OS X then has to guess about what should open your documents. In this case, it guessed wrong.

To set it straight, first go to /Applications/Microsoft Office 2004/Additional Tools/Remove Office, and run the Remove Office application. You should see at least two options—Remove Microsoft Office 2004 (Including Test Drive) and Remove Microsoft Office 2004. (You may see even more if you have other Office installations.) Select Remove Microsoft Office 2004 (Including Test Drive)—which will, confusingly enough, remove just the Test Drive version. Once you've done that, empty the Trash.

Now select that Excel document and press ⌘-I. From the Open With pop-up menu, choose Microsoft Excel. Click on Change All, and all Excel documents will be again associated with the full version of Excel. Follow the same procedure if Word and PowerPoint documents are just as clueless about the application that should open them.

AppleWorks and the Intel Mac

I have an iBook filled with spreadsheets and databases I created in AppleWorks. I'd like to upgrade from my iBook to a MacBook Pro. But according to someone at a local Apple Store, AppleWorks is incompatible with the MacBook Pro. What software can I use?

Ernest Arvanitis

First, let's clear up a little confusion. AppleWorks works perfectly well on Intel Macs—including the MacBook Pro. While no Universal version exists (or is likely to), AppleWorks 6.2.9 runs fine on Rosetta, Apple's PowerPC emulator. AppleWorks isn't bundled with Intel Macs, but you can just copy the AppleWorks 6 folder from your iBook to the MacBook Pro, and you'll be in business.

All that said, Apple abandoned AppleWorks long ago. It's high time for anyone who still depends on AppleWorks to go out and finally find a replacement for it.

Spreadsheets aren't a problem, as AppleWorks can save its spreadsheets in a format compatible with Microsoft Excel. You can then work with these documents in Excel, Mariner Software's Calc (\$50; macworld.com/1638), ThinkFree's Office (free; macworld.com/1138), or the open-source NeoOffice (free; macworld.com/1636).

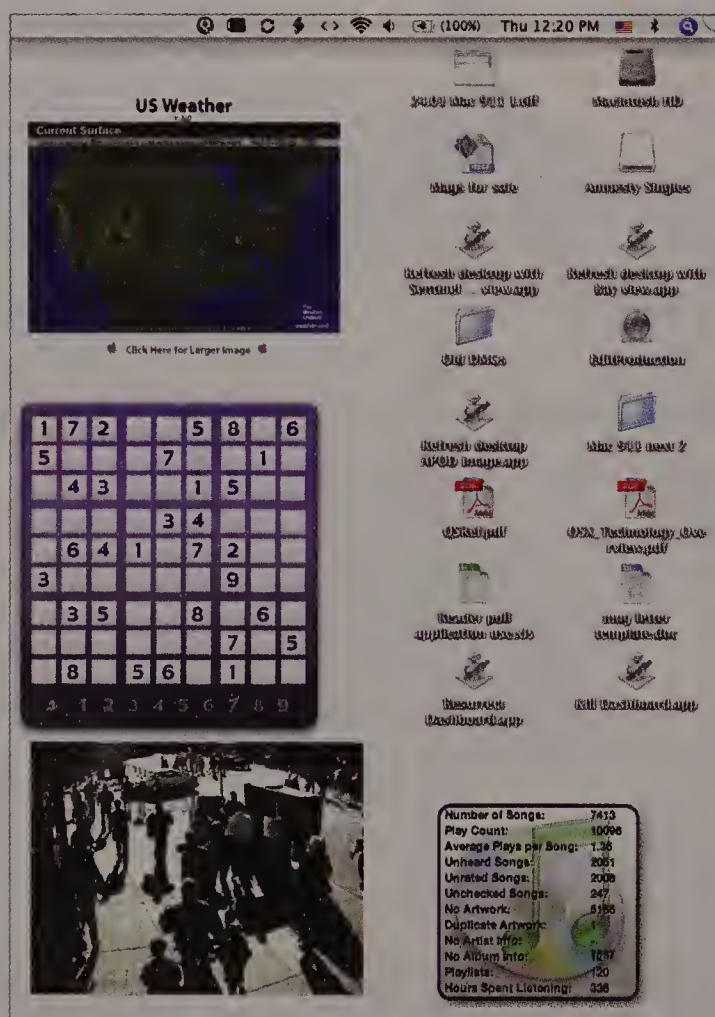
Databases are tougher, as there isn't a clean way to import an AppleWorks database directly into FileMaker Pro. Here's the not-so-clean-way:

Open the AppleWorks database and choose Organize: Show All Records. Choose a layout that displays every field, select all, and copy the text to the Clipboard. In AppleWorks or Excel, open a new spreadsheet document. Paste the text into the spreadsheet. In all likelihood, your field headings—Address and Phone Number, for example—won't be there. So be sure to leave a couple of rows free at the top of the spreadsheet, where you can add your headings later.

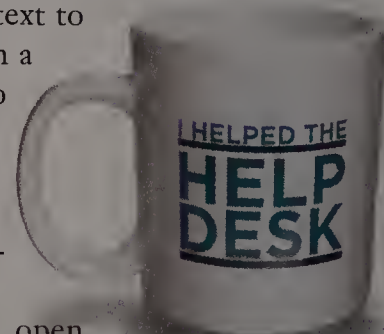
Save the spreadsheet as ASCII text; then open that file in FileMaker Pro. The data should appear in a spreadsheet layout, so you'll have to re-create the original database's layout.

Optionally, if you're only looking for a way to search for existing data and plan to start fresh in FileMaker, feel free to leave the data in a spreadsheet, which you can easily search. □

Senior Editor CHRISTOPHER BREEN is the author of *Secrets of the iPod and iTunes*, fifth edition, and *The iPod and iTunes Pocket Guide* (both Peachpit Press, 2006).



Off the Dashboard Using Amnesty Singles, you can convert Dashboard widgets into stand-alone applications that can live on your desktop.



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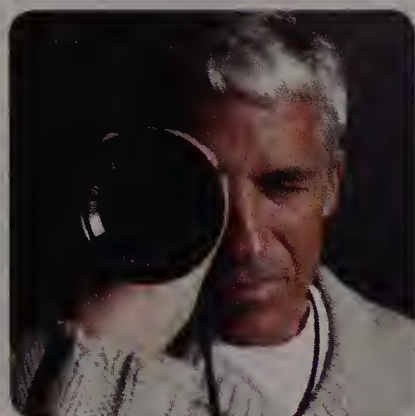
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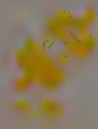
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A few things to check out in this brochure:

- Our expanded **Market Symposiums** provide an opportunity to spend an entire day enmeshed in the technical, creative, and business issues of several key vertical markets that rely on Mac technology.
- The **Power Tools Conferences** provide in-depth two-day training classes on the most popular and trusted Mac productivity tools. This year, we will be featuring some amazing new technologies that are shaping the way you work today. These are some of our most popular courses and many sell out, so register early.
- The **MacIT® Conference** is the most comprehensive enterprise computing and admin skill development conference available on any platform. Our accomplished faculty of technologists, consultants, engineers, and writers take you inside the suite of Apple Enterprise tools, helping to make the job of deploying these tools as productive as possible.
- And finally, our wonderful and imaginative **Users Conference** has been completely redesigned to present not only the tips and techniques to make you a true Mac power user, but to also stimulate your senses with visionary looks at new technology, dazzling demonstrations by technology wizards, and practical tips for your work and creative endeavors.

Last year the great Bob Weir from the Grateful Dead was at Macworld demonstrating music production with the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus. One attendee remarked to me how excited he was to try Bob's ideas in iMovie for his home movies. That's what we call a Macworld moment – where the lines between professional and enthusiast cross and creative ideas are shared, enriching all who participate.

Come to San Francisco and see what all of the buzz is about. You're guaranteed a week that will spark your imagination.

Sincerely,

Paul Kent

Paul Kent
VP, IDG World Expo



Keynote*

Steve Jobs, CEO, Apple

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Come hear Apple CEO Steve Jobs deliver the Macworld Conference & Expo Keynote Address as we kick off the biggest Macintosh community event of the year. Open to all conference attendees.

A Q&A on Culture, Filmmaking, Storytelling and Cool Tools

Kevin Smith, Writer and Film Director

Tuesday, January 9, 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Starting with the surprise critical and commercial success he received for his debut film Clerks, Kevin Smith has seen it all. Now, several films later, Kevin comes to Macworld Conference & Expo to share his wry perspective on the film business, its quirks, and what it takes to stick with it.

Macworld Live! with David Pogue

David Pogue, Technology Columnist, New York Times

Wednesday, January 10, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM



Move over Letterman, Leno and Conan - New York Times technology columnist and Mac industry luminary David Pogue returns to Macworld to host our very own talk show.

Macworld Best of Show 2007

Presented by Macworld Magazine

Wednesday, January 10, 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM

Live on stage for the very first time, Macworld's team of Mac experts will present and demonstrate the most exciting and innovative products at Macworld Expo.

MacBrainiac Challenge

Hosted by Christopher Breen,

Contributing Editor, Macworld Magazine

Thursday, January 11, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

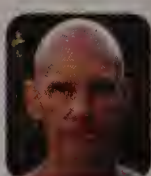


Join us at Macworld Conference & Expo's MacBrainiac Challenge for an entertaining presentation of OS X, Mac and other geek trivia! Be in the audience as industry luminary Chris Breen hosts Macworld's zany, live quiz show!

How Digital Tools Enabled my 9/11 Photography Experience

Joel Meyerowitz

Thursday, January 11, 2:45 PM – 3:45 PM



Join Joel Meyerowitz, world-renowned photographer and digital photography pioneer as he shares the images and experiences of his amazing 40-year career. Joel has works in the Museum of Modern Art and has been featured on Nightline, CBS and MSNBC.

* The Keynote is open to Platinum and Super Pass, MacIT, Users, Power Tools, Market Symposiums, and Hands-on MacLabs attendees ONLY. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis except for Platinum and Super Pass attendees who have access to priority Keynote and Feature Presentation seating.

Special Interest Pavilions

The Special Interest Pavilions feature up-and-coming companies, products, and solutions. Learn first-hand the very latest Macintosh technology for specific market segments in a cohesive setting. Pavilions include:

- Digital Media, Multimedia, and Publishing Solutions
- Enterprise and Business Solutions
- Developer Tools, Networking, and Server Solutions
- Education, SciTech, and Assistive Technology

The ADC Developer Pavilion

Looking for the hidden gems, startup companies and new solutions that have made Macworld Conference & Expo famous? The ADC Developer Pavilion, a new attraction in the Exhibit Hall, presents some of the most innovative companies and cutting edge solutions by members of the Apple Developer Connection program. In this area, you'll find startups, companies new to our market, and established companies who are new to Macworld Conference & Expo – all exhibiting with us for the first time – so give them a warm welcome as you visit these dynamic Mac product innovators.

FileMaker Developer Pavilion

Whether you are a FileMaker developer or customer, take advantage of this unique opportunity to experience what the partners of FileMaker have been able to accomplish. Located directly between Apple and FileMaker, this pavilion is surely one not to miss!

Taste of the Conference

Macworld Conference & Expo features over 20 hours of free education for you to enjoy. Get a taste of what goes on in our world-class conference programs by attending these complimentary lectures. Topics will cover getting the most from your iPod, special classes for new Mac users, fun and imaginative ways to use your Mac, and how the Mac can help you harness and improve your artistic capabilities. The schedule will be announced in December – check macworldexpo.com for details.

Macworld Best of Show Awards

Looking for the hottest new products available for the Mac? Find exciting and innovative products in the Exhibit Hall by looking for the Macworld Best of Show logo hanging in select exhibitor booths. The Macworld Best of Show Awards are a highly coveted honor within the Mac industry. Chosen by Macworld's editorial staff, the winners represent products that are making their public debut at Macworld Conference & Expo or have been recently introduced.



Macworld 2007 Auto Show



Ever wondered how to install your iPod in your vehicle or wanted to preview vehicles already equipped with the iPod? The Macworld Auto Show will have cars from leading manufacturers showcasing the latest in iPod integration, as well as cars highlighting after-market custom iPod docks, and more. Find your next iPod integration system here and get your questions answered by the experts.

Macintosh User Group Booth

User Groups are one of the best resources for Macintosh users of all levels and experience. Hundreds of groups around the world offer training, information, resources, and fellowship for members both local and global. The Macintosh User Group Booth will feature a rotating slate of exhibiting user groups and presentations on what they can offer you.

Apple Consultants Network – Free Technical Advice!

Get help directly from the experts at one of the most popular resource areas at Macworld Conference & Expo – the Apple Consultants Network counter. Members of the Apple Consultants Network are independent consultants, trainers, and resellers specializing in Apple products and solutions and offering free technical support to all attendees.

Macworld Conference & Expo Guided Tours

Find the products, services, solutions, and companies you're looking for with the help of the Apple User Group Volunteers. Whether you're a new attendee to Macworld Conference & Expo or a returning Mac user, these knowledgeable guides will assess your needs and escort you directly to what's hot, help you find seats for exhibit hall demonstrations, and bring you to the experts who have the answers you need. We urge you to take advantage of this invaluable service!

User Group Lounge

Get up close and personal with the people who influence the dynamic Macintosh community in the User Group Lounge. A diverse roster of well-known columnists, authors, community leaders, and Macintosh personalities meet with Mac professionals and enthusiasts in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. This is your chance to get to know these decision-makers on a first-name basis. And while you're there, locate your local Macintosh User Group and find out how to get involved.

Register today

Register online with priority code
A-MW5 at macworldexpo.com

Find What You Looking For

Macworld Conference & Expo offers plenty of training, product demonstrations and fun activities for anyone and everyone who has ever used – or thought about using – a Mac. Interested in a specific topic? Let us point you in the right direction. The only catch is you have to register for Macworld to be able to benefit from all that we offer!

Macworld for Digital Photography

◆ The Digital Photography Experience	
◆ Digital Photography Day Program	SOLD OUT!
◆ Power Tools Conference	Two-day training on Aperture and Photoshop
◆ Feature Presentation	Joel Meyerowitz shares the images and experiences of his amazing 40-year career
◆ Users Conference	Discover how to create uncanny realism in Photoshop, your personal digital photography vision, and what the digital camera of 2015 might look like

Macworld for Digital Video

◆ Power Tools Conferences	Master Final Cut Studio, Post Production or HD Production
◆ Feature Presentation	Question & Answer session with Kevin Smith
◆ Visit the Digital Video Experience	
◆ Users Conference	Graduate from iMovie to Final Cut Pro and The Future of Digital Video
◆ Hands-On MacLabs	DVD Studio Pro

Macworld for Enterprise IT Pros

◆ Power Tools Conference	Beyond the Box Advanced Mac OS X Server Techniques and Behind the Box Mac OS X Server Fundamentals
◆ Mac IT® Conference	Three days of nothing but IT training with some of the best minds in the industry
◆ Hands-On MacLabs	Building Packages

Macworld for Graphic Design Training

◆ Power Tools Conference	FlashForward@Macworld, Adobe Creative Suite, Acrobat, Dreamweaver and much more
◆ Users Conference	Visit the Vision and Create tracks for sessions geared to graphics and creative professionals
◆ Market Symposiums	Photoshop Professional, New Media Artist and Art Director
◆ Hands-On MacLabs	Creative Suite

Digital Lifestyle Experience

Discover Macworld Conference & Expo's newest highlight, The Macworld Digital Lifestyle Experience! The Experience features interactive exhibitions, training, and activities focusing on four blossoming creative technology areas – digital photography, digital video, the digital home, and music & sound. From listening to music on MP3 players, snapping and sharing digital photos, creating movies using just a video camera and a home computer, The Macworld Digital Lifestyle Experience is a collection of cool technology showcases featuring hands-on demonstrations in true-to-life settings that show you how to cultivate your own digital lifestyle.



Digital Photography Experience



Digital Video Experience



Music & Sound Experience

Hands-on-MacLabs: Jan. 12



Hit solutions pay dirt during our Hands-on MacLabs! A slew of key applications and tools – and experts offering hands-on training to maximize their utility – will help you hone your skills. So, grab your laptop and choose a discipline, but do it quickly – class size is limited! For more information and system requirements, visit macworldexpo.com/maclabs.

- ◆ LA Creative Suite
- ◆ LB Building Packages
- ◆ LC DVD Studio Pro
- ◆ LD Get Your Hands on the Power of QuickTime!
- ◆ LE Hands-on AppleScript

Macworld
Conference & Expo

BLAST
ATTENDEE PARTY

Date: Tuesday, January 9th
Time: 8 – 11 PM
Tickets: \$40 (includes, entertainment, and entry into a raffle for great Macworld Conference & Expo prizes)

Note: Due to the venue's age policy, no individual under 21 years of age will be permitted at the event. Valid age identification will be required for entry.

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Exhibit Hall
Guest Pass

\$45 Value

Register today with Priority Code A-MW5 after December 11, 2006 and receive your Exhibit Hall registration for only \$25 (A \$45 value)
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Power Tools Conferences: Jan. 8 – 11



Dig into two days of top-notch training, enlightening discussions, and one-on-one interaction with peers and industry experts. Choose a Power Tools Conference topic and spend two days building your skill set and knowledge on your favorite application or tool.

Series 1: Jan. 8 – Jan. 9

- ◆ **PA** AppleScript
- ◆ **PB** Flashforward@Macworld
- ◆ **PC** Aperture Power Tools
- ◆ **PD** Mastering Adobe Creative Suite 2
- ◆ **PE** Photoshop
- ◆ **PF** Final Cut Studio Masters Workshop
- ◆ **PG** Beyond the Box: Advanced Mac OS X Server Techniques
- ◆ **PH** Behind the Box: Mac OS X Server Fundamentals
- ◆ **PI** Advanced Wireless Networks Workshop: The State of Wireless 2007
- ◆ **PJ** Filemaker
- ◆ **PK** Adobe Acrobat
- ◆ **PL** Graphic Secrets for Business
- ◆ **PM** HD Production and Workflow

Series 2: Jan. 10 – Jan. 11

- ◆ **PP** Dreamweaver
- ◆ **PQ** Open Flash: The Next Generation
- ◆ **PR** Introduction to Final Cut Studio
- ◆ **PT** Logic Demystified
- ◆ **PU** Publishing Workflow Automation
- ◆ **PV** Video Compression Secrets and Techniques

MacIT® Conferences: Jan. 10 – 12



Broaden your understanding of Mac administration with these invaluable technical sessions highlighting Apple and essential third-party IT applications. MacIT provides the best opportunities for meeting with field experts and collaborating with peers. For more information, visit macworldexpo.com/macit.

◆ **System Imaging and Deployment.** This track is designed around the concepts of imaging Mac systems. Solutions for deploying and maintaining a large number of Mac systems, including use of a NetBoot server, cloning tools, staging and rollback utilities, and granular sets of user, group, and computer policies, will be discussed.

◆ **Mac OS X in the Enterprise Arena.** This track showcases Mac OS X and Mac OS X Server utilization within enterprise level environments, with solutions for improved integration of Macs into heterogeneous networks. Topics include Directory Services and Kerberos, to Xsan and load balancing, to a peek-under-the-hood of Leopard Server.

◆ **Service Solutions using Mac OS X Server.** Understanding Mac OS X Server's services can lead to increased productivity and an enhanced end-user experience. These sessions enable attendees to strengthen their knowledge of these services. Spend some time with your server's services, then attend these sessions to learn how the pros put them to work.

◆ **Mac OS X Management and Administration.** This track provides a thorough, systematic layout of how to administer and manage Mac OS X. Create neutered administrators, program ARD, learn more about Mac OS X file systems, support Windows on Macs, and automate administration using a number of scripting languages, and understand desktop management with Leopard.

◆ **Securing Mac OS X.** This track's sessions on security include creating a system log server, using token or smart card authentication, or launching ACT as a watchdog for your computers. Learn how to monitor your network using several tools and methods and how to rate your computer against others with respect to certain security settings.

Users Conferences: Jan. 10 – 11



Find your digital muse at the Users Conference, an acclaimed source of inspiration and new computing ideas for both new Mac users and skilled masters alike. The Users Conference is renowned for its broad array of Mac subject matter and lively in-depth sessions, with experts from diverse fields spurring users to stretch their Mac abilities. For more information, visit macworldexpo.com/users.

◆ **Magic.** What are the skills needed to be a Power User? More than a Power User? A true Mac OS X Magician? Sessions in this track reveal the tools, tips, and techniques that will help you master Mac OS X and make you more productive, more efficient and more 'magical' in all of your Mac computing endeavors. Features, troubleshooting tips, and helpful hints are revealed in these informative sessions.

◆ **Inspire.** We'll demonstrate what is possible, inspiring you to stretch your abilities and try new things. Attend these sessions to see technical and creative masters demonstrate the state of the art, and then explain how they create their astonishing works. You're certain to walk away motivated to attack your next project!

◆ **Vision.** This collection of sessions provides you with an opportunity to sit back and absorb the perspective of technical visionaries and cutting-edge practitioners as they share their views on how technology will evolve and affect our workplace, home life and culture in the near future. Get a glimpse of the future by attending these fascinating presentations.

◆ **Work.** Macs are increasingly taking their place in the workplace with powerful tools and unprecedented ease of use, empowering workers to be more productive. Learn how you can use iLife, iWork and other features of Mac OS X to its greatest potential in all-Mac and mixed Mac-Windows environments.

◆ **Create.** Since its inception, the Mac has been the trusted tool for fostering creativity. From print and web design to enabled photo and video production, Mac OS-based tools continue to break new ground with easy-to-use innovative features that bring creativity within everyone's reach, while helping experienced creative professionals extend their art. Attend these sessions to learn how to use the essential products in the creative professional's tool arsenal.

Market Symposiums: Jan. 10 or Jan. 12



Leave it to the Mac to cultivate enterprising solutions for improving your work and growing your business. Whether you're left or right-brained (or somewhere in between), these Market Symposiums provide indispensable tools for giving your discipline room to grow. For more information, visit macworldexpo.com/marketsymposiums.

Wednesday, January 10

◆ **SA K-12 Educators Market Symposium.** Includes Educational Keynote, Safe Classroom Blogging to Improve Student Writing, Engaging Brains with Games and Simulations, The Accessible Mac: Yesterday and Tomorrow, Simple Podcasting on a Global Scale, and The MegaVCR: Media and More in Your Pocket.

◆ **SB Photoshop Professional.** Includes Photoshop CS2 Actions & Automation, The Russell Brown Power Hour (Well, Two Hours) for Graphic Designers, and The Creative Side of PhotoShop.

◆ **SC Welcome to Macintosh.** Become immediately productive with your new Mac and learn how to get things done quickly and painlessly the Macintosh way. Topics covered will include: The Basics: Mastering the Finder and the Desktop, Introduction to Bundled Mac Software, Internet and Networking Made Simple, Living the iLife, and Crossing Platforms.

Friday, January 12

◆ **SD Musicians and Technology.** Includes GarageBand and Beyond: Where to Get Started, Recording, Arranging, and Producing Music and Sound, Creating and Publishing Scores, DJing and Remixing, Playing Live with a Mac, and Becoming a Successful Mac Musician: Promotion, Distribution, and the Business of Music.

◆ **SE Small Business.** Includes Small Business Checklist, Business Management Solutions, Business Communications and Collaboration, Servers & Network Services, Office Infrastructure, and Technology Management.

◆ **SF New Media Artists.** Includes What It Means To Be a New Media Artist Today, What Are Customers Looking For, Selecting a Team and Tools for a Project, Production: The Latest Methods and Optimizing Workflows, Interacting with Content, Launching a Successful Web Site, The Secret Tools for Building Next-Generation Solutions, plus Tips, Tricks, Highlights and Q&A.

◆ **SG Podcasting.** Now that indie podcasters are making money and major media companies are dominating the top ten lists, the podcasting world is beginning to take shape. On one hand, podcasting is a programming, marketing and distribution business. On the other, it's also a clever audio visual media tool ideal for digital artists, writers, filmmakers and other content creators wishing to reach out to clients, fans, or just family members. Our day is designed to provide useful real-world business advice and technical information in a spirited format. These sessions are ideal for the newbies and trenchies.

◆ **SH Art Director.** Get up to speed on the new innovations and best practices defining today's design marketplace: from Apple's Intel-based design workstations to JDF production specifications and XML metadata, we'll cover the tools that matter to you. This program also includes a frank and fast-paced panel discussion where a photographer, a copywriter and a printer let an AD know what they really think. It's a day just for Art Directors, and it's chock-full of new insights you can really use!

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40,000 Square Feet of Innovation

Come see the companies that will feed your need for everything Mac at Macworld Conference & Expo, the signature event for the Mac community and the place to experience the latest Mac products and services. The Expo's popular Macworld Exhibit Hall is brimming with companies that have the perfect solutions for all of your Mac wants and needs, aptly illustrated by lively demonstrations – and livelier discussions!

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24hrPrinting.com
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Academy of Art University
AcctVantage
Accusys, Inc
addonIT
Adobe Systems, Incorporated
Adobe Systems, Inc
AEC Software
Aevoe Corp.
AJA Video Systems, Inc
Allegro Multimedia, Inc
Allume Systems, Inc
Alpine Electronics of America, Inc
Alsoft, Inc
Altec Lansing
Ambient Design
Ambrosia Software Inc
AMCC Storage/3ware
Anthro Corporation
Apago
Apple Channel Program
AppZapper
Archiware GmbH
Aspyr Media
Aspyr Media
Atech Flash Technology.
Atempo
Atto Technology, Inc
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Automated Workflows, LLC
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BAF
Battery Geek.net
Battery Technology
BBP Bags
Beezwax Datatools
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Belkin
Blurb
Boomwave Products sdn bhd
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CalDigit
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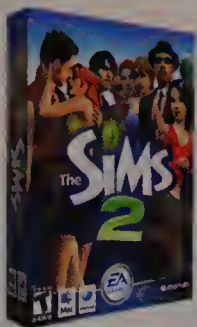
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Creation Engine, Inc
Creative
Crumpler
CRYPTOCARD Corp
Cyber Acoustics
Digital Film Tools
Digital Lifestyle Outfitters (DLO)
Disc Makers
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Dr Bott
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Guitar Center
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H&R Block TaxCut
Harman Multimedia
Hash, Inc
Hearing Components
Heigl Technologies
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Luxology
Lynda.com
Tenba/Road Wired/X-Rite
MacAddict
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Sans Digital
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Shaun Jackson Design
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Shure Inc
Shutterstock
SMART Technologies
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Omni Group, The
Thomson ResearchSOFT
TOLIS Group, Inc
Troll Touch
Tunewear
Tursiogear
Tutto/Mascot Metroplitan Inc
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Unitek Computer Stores
Unmarked Software
VectorWorks by Nemetschek
North America
VersionTracker/STM
Vertus Fluid Mask
VTC - Virtual Training Company
VisibleDust, Inc
VMware
Western Digital
Mitters Touch @ Wooden Stone
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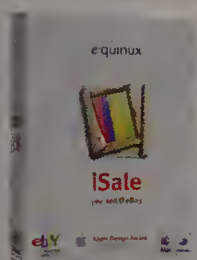
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e·quinox

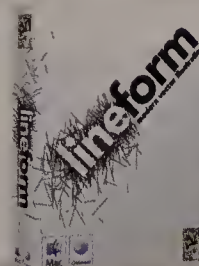
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iSale, the two-time Apple Design Award winner and ultimate, eBay-certified application, allows you to easily style and manage your auctions on eBay. Experience iSale's user-friendly interface and choose among a variety of integrated template layouts to boost your sales.

www.equinox.com

Booth #S1538-35



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Booth #S1538-36



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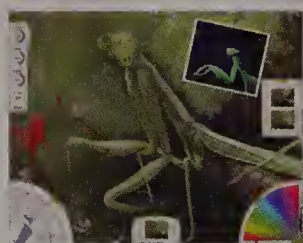
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ArtRage 2

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www.artrage.com/artrage.html

Booth #S1338-24



AppZapper

AppZapper allows you to confidently uninstall virtually any application as easily as it was installed. Drag one or more apps onto AppZapper and it finds extra files and lets you review, then trash. The developers just introduced Disco, the sub \$30 media burning app for the rest of us.

www.appzapper.com

Booth #S1338-02



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Booth #1338-19



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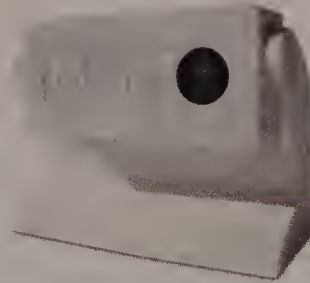
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EZ Mask

EZ Mask is an easy to use masking tool capable of extracting almost any object even if it has fine hair detail, smoke, or reflections.

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Booth #S1338-03



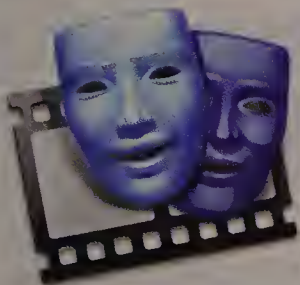
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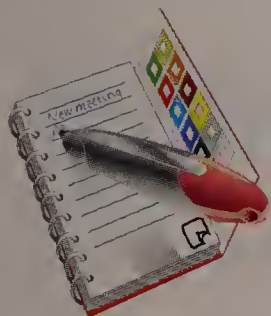
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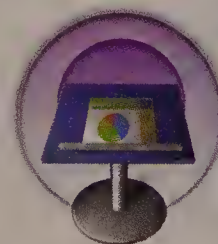
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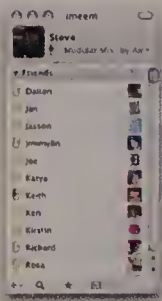
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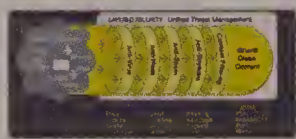
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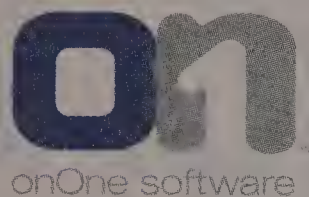


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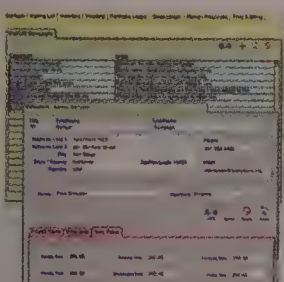


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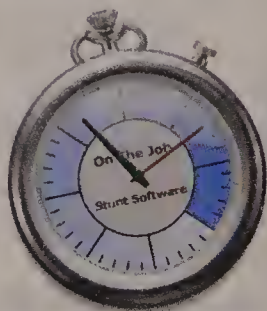
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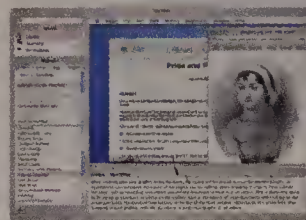
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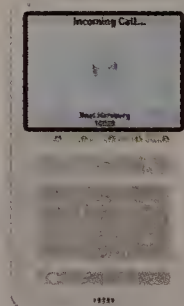
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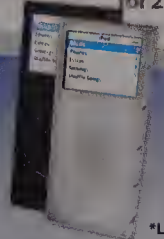
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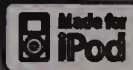
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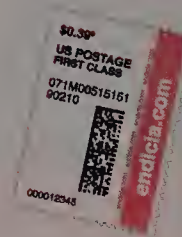
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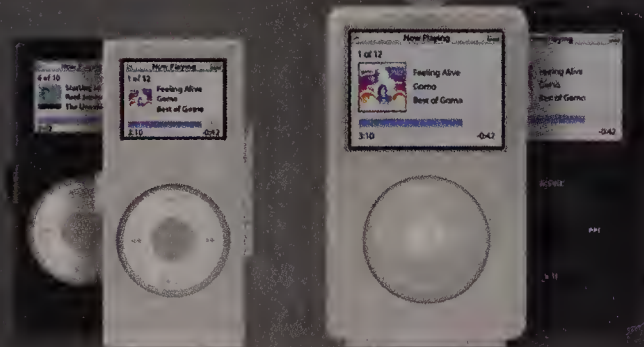
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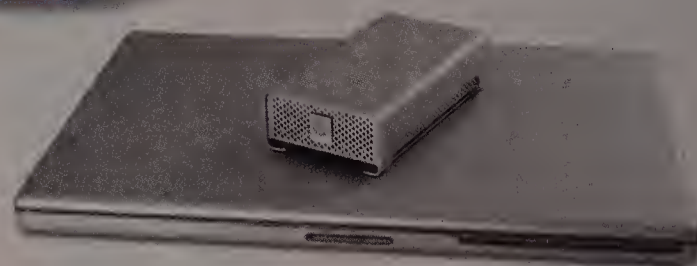


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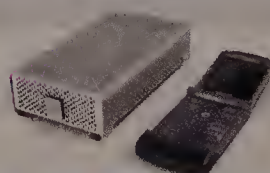


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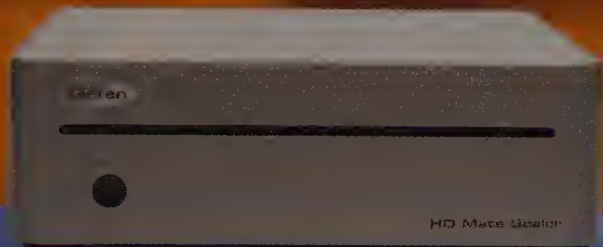
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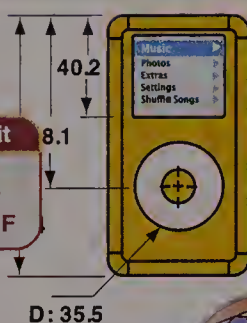


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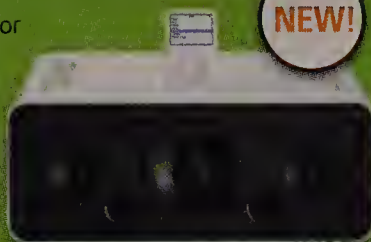


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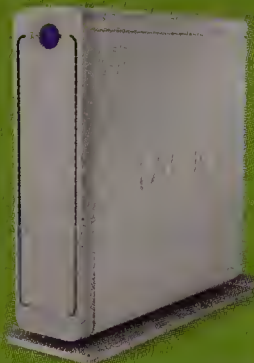
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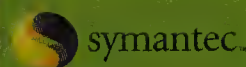
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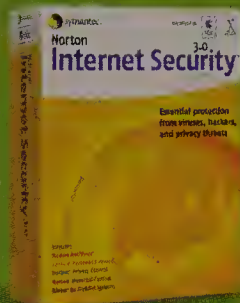


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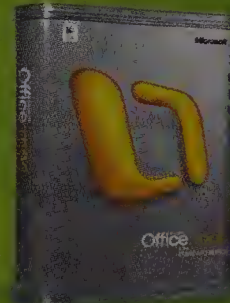
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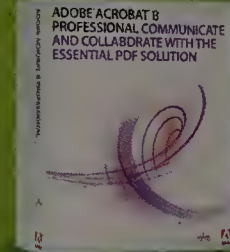
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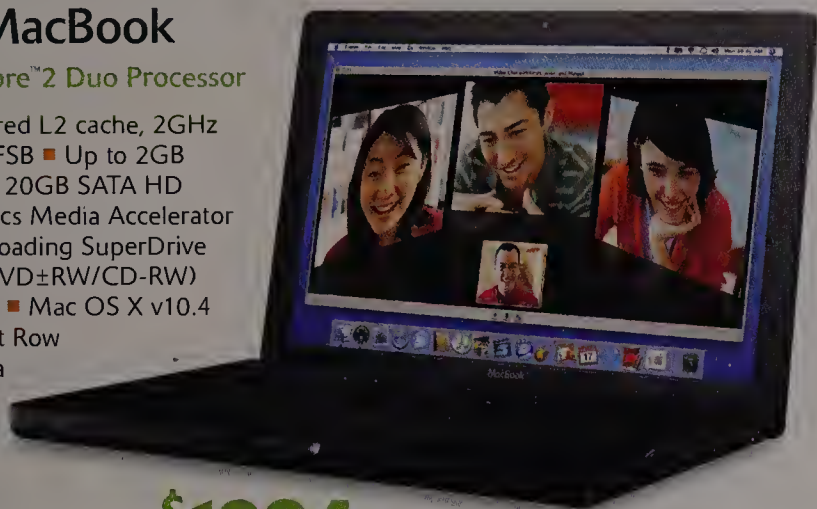


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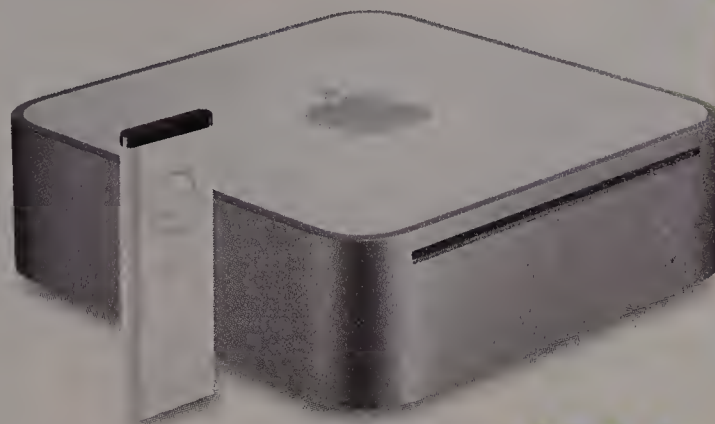
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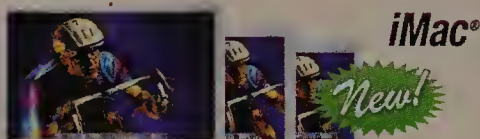
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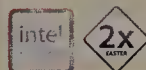
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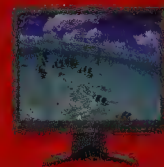
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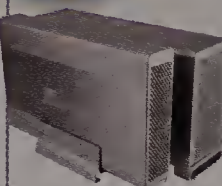
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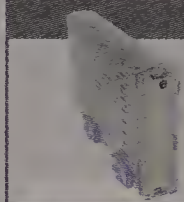
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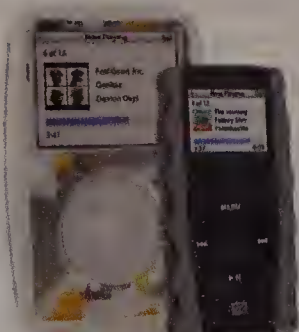
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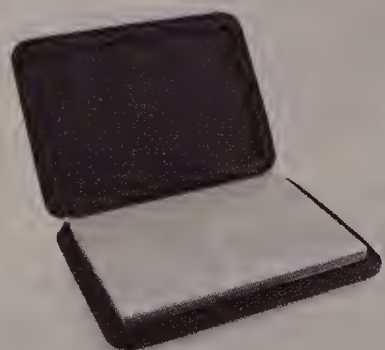
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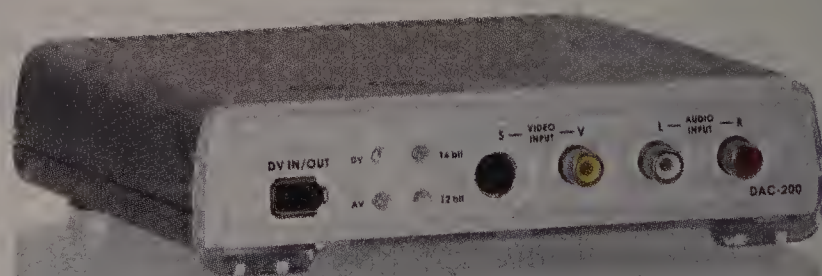
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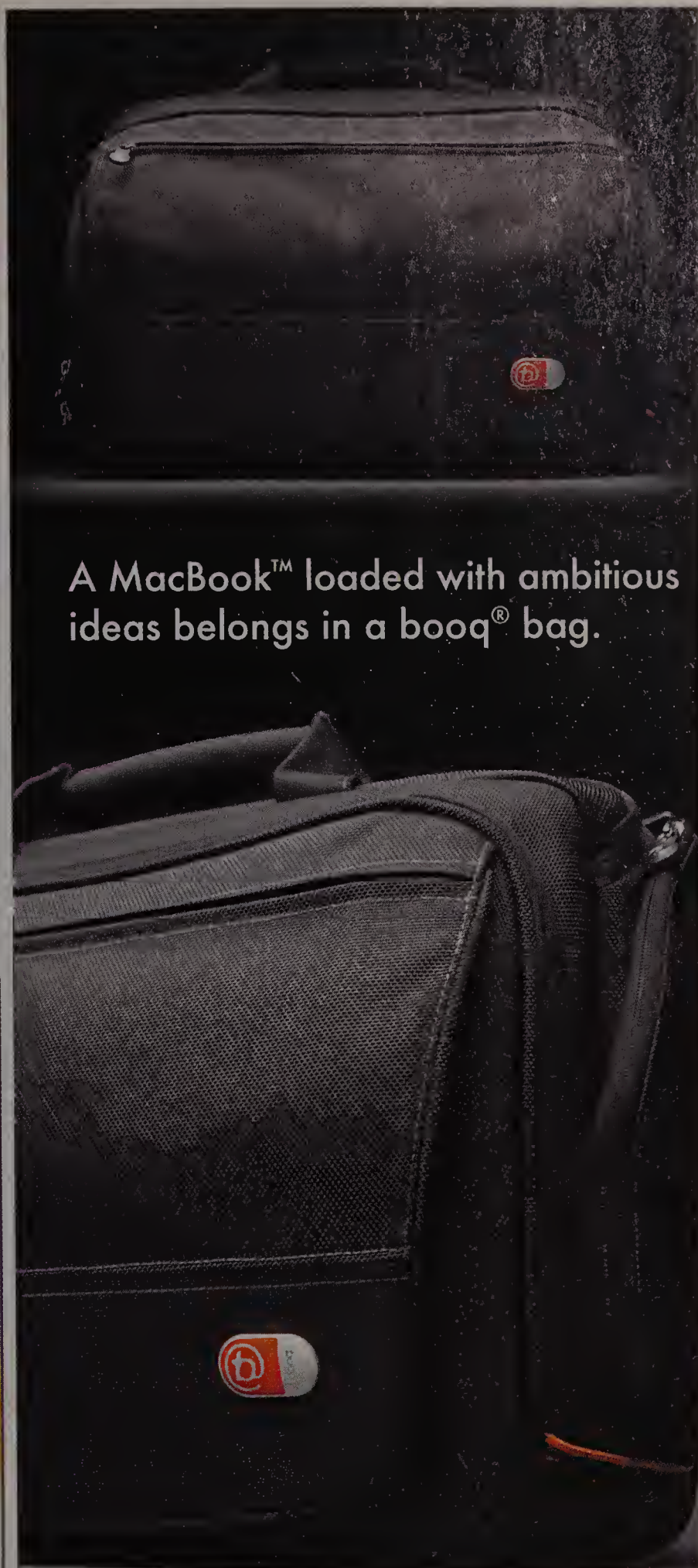
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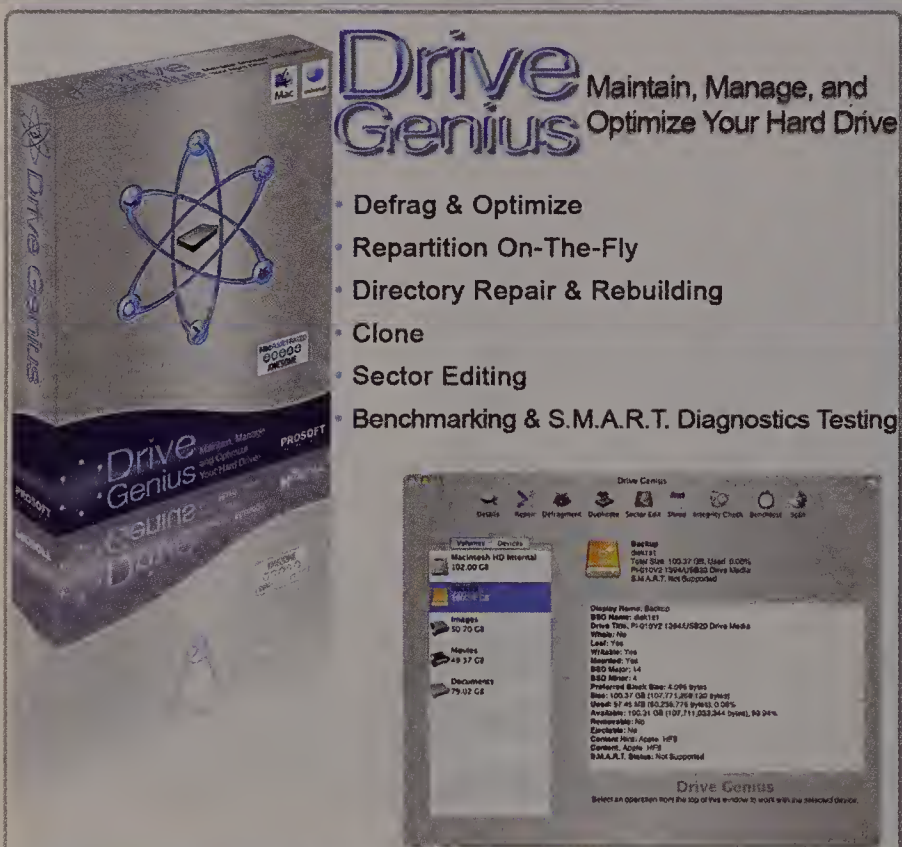
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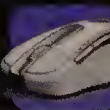
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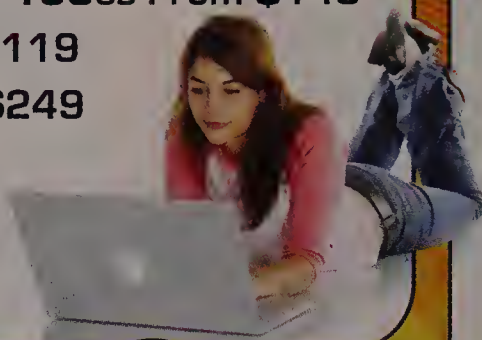
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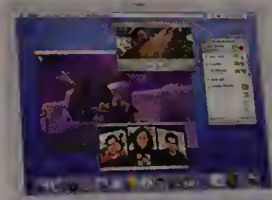
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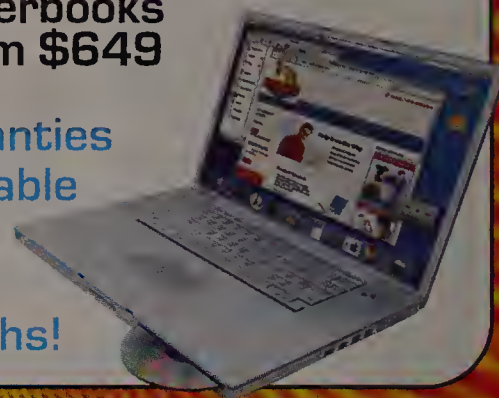
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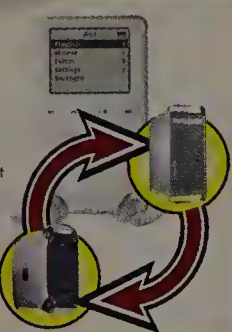
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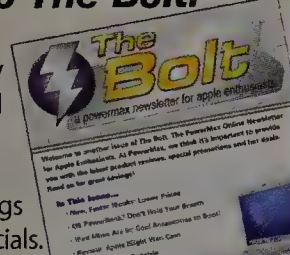
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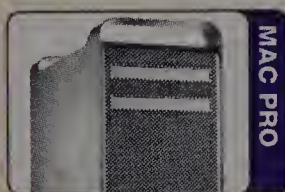
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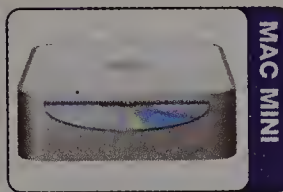
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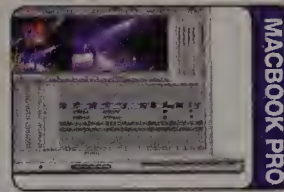
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FROM THE EDITORS OF MACWORLD



SEETHRU

Apple's aluminum-cased MacBook Pro is a handsome machine. It's also easy to scratch. If you want protection, Speck Products' \$40 SeeThru fits the bill—and your laptop. This two-piece polycarbonate shell—available in clear or in translucent red—snaps onto your 15-inch MacBook Pro, shielding it from scratches and minor bumps. All of the laptop's ports, openings, and buttons remain accessible. (You do need to remove the bottom piece to swap batteries, though.) The shell's bottom even has rubber feet for stability, and ventilation holes for keeping your MacBook Pro cool (www.speckproducts.com).—DAN FRANKS

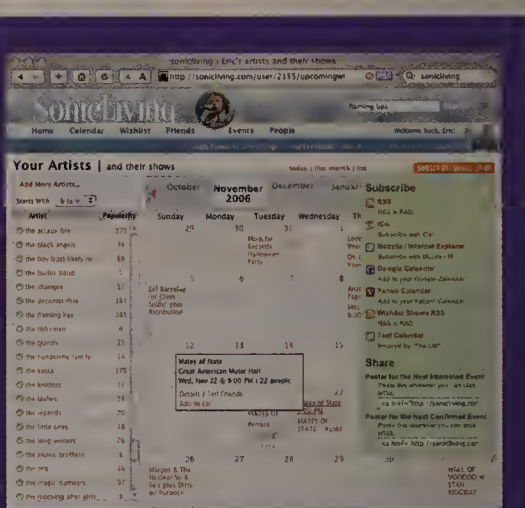
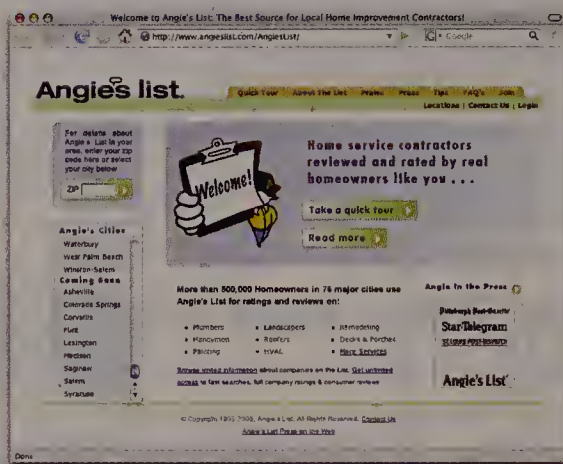
College via Podcast

I'll always regret not having taken an astronomy class in college (cursed comprehensive general-education requirements!). Fortunately, scientists are among the most cutting-edge of technologists. Ohio State University professor Richard Pogge turned his entire spring 2006 Astronomy 162 class into podcasts—I listened to the podcast on my iPod while commuting to work. And now he's doing the same for an introductory class, Astronomy 161. The sound quality is good (Pogge uses a clip-on microphone and converts the lectures to MP3 himself), and the content can't be beat. Best of all, you can listen and learn anytime, anywhere—and never have to worry about a pop quiz. If astronomy isn't your thing, run a Google search for an educational podcast that tickles your fancy (macworld.com/2280).—JASON SNELL



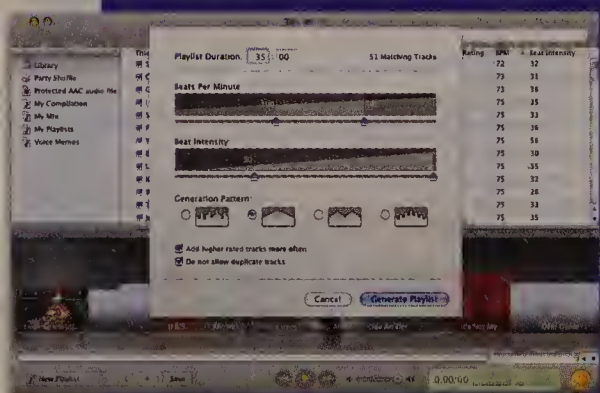
Angie's List

Hiring someone for home repairs can be stressful. So when I discovered that my roof was leaking, I turned to Angie's List. This subscription-based Web site hosts reviews of contractors, repairers, and numerous other professionals, written by people who have actually used their services. You can read about other members' experiences, see grades, and get a sense of how much the job will cost. The site covers more than 70 U.S. cities, and has half a million members (membership costs \$6 per month or \$51 per year). It's peer review at its finest (www.angieslist.com).—KELLY TURNER



SonicLiving

I've spent far too many hours rifling through the pages of my local papers to figure out when my favorite bands are coming to town. I'd rather spend less time looking and more time rocking. Someone has finally made finding performances a whole lot more efficient. SonicLiving, a social-networking Web site, compiles user-submitted concert listings for seven U.S. cities (more are on the way), including San Francisco, New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, as well as London. You can then subscribe to RSS feeds or iCal calendars—but the coolest part is having SonicLiving scan your iTunes library and plot out a massive personalized calendar that tells you when the artists in your library are coming to town. On the site, you can also find people who have similar musical interests, track your friends' concert plans, and watch YouTube videos of your favorite acts (sonicliving.com).—ERIC SUESZ



Tangerine 0.9.7

Every song has its own rhythm and tempo, but what's the best way to measure them? Potion Factory's Tangerine (currently a free beta—the final version should be available by the time you read this, for an estimated \$20 to \$30) scans your iTunes library, and then measures the beats per minute (BPM) of, and assigns a beat intensity to, each track. Then you can create playlists based on a BPM range, an intensity range, a generation pattern, or the total duration—for instance, a playlist of slow tunes for your walk through the park, or upbeat selections for a party (www.potionfactory.com/blog).—BRIAN CHEN



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